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Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Thursday, May 22, 2014



Obama Vows Swift, Forceful Response to Veteran Care Issue

President Barack Obama listens to a question as he speaks to reporters in the Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, May 21, 2014, after he met with Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki and Deputy Chief of Staff Rob Nabors.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

**MICHAEL D. SHEAR
JONATHAN WEISMAN
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WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama on Wednesday expressed outrage about allegations of misconduct at veterans hospitals and said that people in the Department of Veterans Affairs - including Eric Shinseki, its secretary - could be punished if investigations revealed wrongdoing.

Speaking to reporters at the White House after meeting in the Oval Office with Shinseki, the president said he would take swift action if it was proved that employees of the department manipulated data to hide long wait times for appointments at the hospitals.

"I will not stand for it," Obama said. "Not as commander in chief, but also not as an American. None of us should." He added

that if "these allegations prove true," he would consider the actions "dishonorable."

"Once we know the facts, I assure you, if there was misconduct, people will be punished," he said.

The statement from Obama was the first time he has spoken publicly about the growing furor over the veterans' hospitals since he answered a question on the topic during his trip to

Asia this month. White House officials are hoping to tamp down political attacks on the subject by demonstrating that the president takes the situation seriously and is prepared to act.

Evidence of the political peril for Obama came just moments after his remarks, when Reince Priebus, the chairman of the Republican National Committee, accused the president

of failing to act quickly enough in response to the hospital allegations. He called for an investigation beyond ones conducted by the department and its inspector general.

"Why did President Obama wait to address this situation only to ask our veterans for more time and to offer nothing but words?" Priebus said in a statement.

Continued on Page 3

US government wary of sanctions on Venezuela

LUIS ALONSO LUGO
JOSHUA GOODMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As sanctions legislation against Venezuela advances in Congress, the Obama administration is finding itself wedged between pressure from Capitol Hill to punish officials over human rights and regional governments that think such a move would only add to tensions in the South American country. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Tuesday joined its House counterpart and issued a bipartisan approval of legislation that would ban visas and freeze the assets of Venezuelan top level and security officials guilty of abuses committed during three months of anti-government protests.

While it's unclear whether the bill will move to a full vote, the Obama administration is trying to slow its momentum, arguing that more time is needed for efforts by Brazil and other regional nations to broker dialogue between Venezuela's government and opposition. The opposition last week pulled out of month-old talks, arguing the government wasn't negotiating in good faith as it continued to arrest protesters and refused to budge on proposals to free jailed activists and create an independent commission to investigate the deaths of 42 people on both sides.

There may be another reason for the United States' reluctance: fears of a regional backlash.

Chris Sabatini, policy director at the Council of the Americas, said that even targeted U.S. sanctions would smack of a return to Cold War policies like the half-century embargo against Cuba that are a favorite target of the current generation of Latin American leaders.

Many, like Brazil's Dilma Rousseff and Argentina's Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, are allies of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and have so far refused to join the U.S. in condemning his government's crackdown. Even more moderate governments are unlikely to support sanctions just now.

"The bottom line ... is isolation," Sabatini said. "Something does have to be done, but it can't be done by the U.S. acting unilaterally."

The U.S. has suffered a number of setbacks in the region in recent years, from Ecuador's closure of the only U.S. military base in South America to Rousseff's cancellation of a state visit to Washington over revelations that the United States spied on her communications. As countries flex their growing economic muscle, they're also diversifying ties away from the U.S., traditionally its biggest trading partner, to new players such as China and Russia. Secretary of State John Kerry criticized Maduro's government during a visit to Mexico City on Wednesday, saying it hasn't demonstrated a willingness to cede space to the opposition.

"Regrettably, there has just been a total failure by the government of Venezuela to demonstrate good-faith actions to implement those things that they agreed to do," Kerry said. His Mexican counterpart, Jose Antonio Meade, refused to take sides. He said only that dialogue has to be inclusive and produce results.

Still, Sabatini said the threat of U.S. sanctions might actually help regional countries exert more pressure on Maduro. "It's good cop, bad cop," he said.

Maduro on Tuesday lashed out at the prospect of sanctions, calling the Senate committee vote "detestable." He called for a meeting of South American heads of state in June to present evidence of what he says is a U.S. effort to work with local Venezuelan political groups to carry out a slow-motion coup. □

China, Russia reach 30-year gas deal

JANE PERLEZ
© 2014 New York Times

BEIJING — China and Russia agreed to a major 30-year natural gas deal Wednesday that would send gas from Siberia by pipeline to China, according to the China National Petroleum Corp.

The announcement caps a decade-long negotiation and helps bring Russia and China closer than they have been in many years. The contract was driven to a conclusion by the presence of President Xi Jinping of China and President Vladimir Putin of Russia in Shanghai for the

Russian natural gas was at the core of the negotiations.

The deal is expected to be worth about \$400 billion, said James Henderson, a senior analyst at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies. The document was signed in the presence of Putin and Xi, the Russian news agency Itar-Tass reported. Putin told reporters after the signing ceremony that the price of the gas for China was based on the market price of oil, just as it was for European countries.

"The gas price formula as in our other contracts is pegged to the market

the Russian leader, said Shi Yinhong, a professor of international relations at Renmin University in Beijing. Expectations that the deal would be sealed when Xi and Putin met Tuesday were dashed when negotiators from China National Petroleum and Gazprom failed to reach an agreement.

Political considerations, including Putin's coming visit to Europe in early June — when he will meet with President Barack Obama and the German chancellor, Angela Merkel — were probably a vital impetus to getting the contract over



Russian President Vladimir Putin leaves after being greeted by Chinese President Xi Jinping in Shanghai, May 21, 2014. China and Russia agreed to a major 30-year natural gas deal Wednesday that would send gas from Siberia by pipeline to China, according to the China National Petroleum Corporation.

(Mark Ralston/Pool via The New York Times)

last two days.

The notice posted on China National Petroleum's website said that beginning in 2018, Russia would supply 38 billion cubic meters of natural gas each year to China. China will build the pipeline within its own borders, while Russia will be responsible for the development of the fields and pipeline construction in its territory, the notice said.

The notice said the Irkutsk Kovyktinskoye and Chayandinskoye gas fields in Russia would primarily supply the gas.

The notice did not mention price, but experts said hard bargaining by China for a lower price than European countries were paying for

price of oil and oil products," Itar-Tass quoted Putin as saying. The deal is the largest for the Russian natural gas industry, he said. Russia will invest \$55 billion in infrastructure for transporting the gas to China, said Alexei B. Miller, the chief executive officer of Gazprom.

Putin has been eager to diversify Russia's gas sales to Asia and away from the stagnant European markets. At the same time, he was anxious to demonstrate that Russia, in the face of sanctions over the annexation of Crimea, was not dependent on the West.

And Xi, who has met Putin seven times since assuming power, was willing to help

the finish line, energy experts said.

Xi and Putin met on the sidelines of a conference of Asian nations. During his address to the gathering, Xi proposed a new Asian structure for security cooperation based on a regional group that would include Russia and Iran, but exclude the United States. The proposal is another indication that Russia and China, though wary of each other, are interested in working together outside the confines of global and regional institutions dominated by the United States. The final price of the gas stipulated in the document remains a "commercial secret," Miller told the Russian channel TV-Novosti. □



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Obama vows a forceful response to veteran issues

Continued from front

"Our veterans have had enough. They deserve results. And we all deserve more from our president. It's time for an independent investigation."

The president praised Shinseki as a great soldier who cares deeply about the fate of U.S. veterans. But he hinted that Shinseki's 5-1/2-year tenure at the helm of the sprawling department was at risk, depending on the outcome of the investigations.

Obama said Shinseki, a retired four-star general, had been effective at reducing homelessness among veterans and expanding benefits for disabled veterans. But the president suggested that Shinseki may yet step aside.

"I said it to him today: I want to see what the results of these reports are, and there is going to be accountability," Obama said. "We're going to work with him to solve the problem. But I am going to make sure there is accountability."

For the first time, Obama provided deadlines for the reviews being undertaken. He said he expected a preliminary report from Shinseki next week. And he said that he wanted a more complete evaluation of the department's health facilities by next month. That review is being led by Rob Nabors, Obama's deputy chief of staff, who has been temporarily dispatched to the Department



Eric Shinseki, the secretary of Veterans Affairs, speaks to reporters after a Senate hearing in Washington.

(Gabriella Demczuk/The New York Times)

ment of Veterans Affairs. "I'm going to be waiting to see what the results of all this review process reveals," Obama said. "I don't yet know how systemic this is. Is this just an episodic problem?"

Obama defended his administration's efforts to work on broader challenges in the department. He said officials had reduced waiting times for getting benefits, even as they have

expanded the number of veterans who can get access to benefits for different conditions. He said he welcomed oversight from Congress on the issue, but he pleaded for lawmakers to avoid making it a political issue. "It is important that our veterans don't become another political football," Obama said. "This is an area where Democrats and Republicans should always be working

together." Republican lawmakers Tuesday intensified their criticism of Obama, and some made it clear they intended to use the incidents at the hospitals as fodder for a broader political theme about incompetence in his administration. "The election of President Obama ushered in a new era of big government and with it a renewed flurry of mismanagement," Rep. Kevin McCarthy of Califor-

nia, the House Republican whip, said in a statement. "If the president truly did not know about these scandals and mistakes, we should doubt his ability to properly manage the Leviathan government that he helped create."

Rep. Eric Cantor of Virginia, the No. 2 Republican in the House, told reporters that Obama had not acted swiftly enough. He said, "It is time for our president to come forward and take responsibility for this and do the right thing by these veterans and begin to show that he actually cares about getting it straight."

The increasing reports of misconduct at numerous veterans hospitals other than Phoenix in recent weeks have prompted outrage among members of both parties demanding swift action. On Tuesday, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., repeated a call for the FBI to pursue criminal violations.

"People are fed up and impatient," Blumenthal said in an interview. "So am I." □

Pelosi picks 5 Democrats for Benghazi panel

JONATHAN WEISMAN
© 2014 New York Times

WASHINGTON - Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California, disregarding some of her closest lieutenants in the Democratic leadership, appointed a full slate of House Democrats on Wednesday to a special committee investigating the 2012 attack on the diplomatic mission in

Benghazi, Libya.

The move gives legitimacy to a committee that many Democrats have dismissed as an election-year partisan stunt, but it affords President Barack Obama's defenders an opportunity to influence the direction of the hearings and get access to documents and other evidence that could

be presented.

The members selected by Pelosi all served on committees that previously investigated the deadly assault: Rep. Elijah E. Cummings of Maryland, the ranking member on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; Rep. Adam Smith of Washington, the top Democrat

on the House Armed Services Committee; Rep. Adam B. Schiff of California, a member of the Intelligence Committee; Rep. Tammy Duckworth of Illinois, a decorated and severely wounded combat veteran of the Iraq war; and Rep. Linda T. Sanchez of California, who also serves on the oversight committee. □

9/11 Museum opens to a somber New York crowd

STEPHEN FARRELL

© 2014 New York Times

NEW YORK - Alone or in groups they emerged from the dark exhibition halls and the even darker subject matter of the National September 11 Memorial Museum, reaching for words like "overwhelming," "shock" and "gut-wrenching."

On Wednesday, nearly a week after it was opened to family members of victims and rescue workers, the museum opened to the general public.

As the doors opened at 9 a.m., tourists dressed casually in pink running shoes and Mona Lisa T-shirts lined up alongside somber-faced New Yorkers waiting to pay their respects to friends and neighbors who died in the terrorist attack. "Gut-wrenching would describe it best," said Nell Anderson, 29, an interior designer in Brooklyn. "People were very solemn, very

quiet. The attacks happened when I was in high school but now I call New York my home, and I went

an anesthesiologist from Manhattan, said: "I'm just in shock. I didn't think it would be as extensive as

once again."

"It had sort of receded a little bit, and coming back here brings it back to life,"



The National 9/11 Flag, which was severely damaged in the World Trade Center attacks and repaired in part with pieces of retiring flags from all 50 states, is unfurled outside the The National September 11 Memorial Museum in New York, May 21, 2014. The museum opened to the general public for the first time today.

(Karsten Moran/The New York Times)

to pay my respects."

Dr. James Koppel, 62,

it was, and I didn't think I

would be so saddened

Koppel said. He said he

was glad that he had vis-

ited but added: "I am not sure I would come again. The feelings it stirred up were not pleasant feelings."

The first day's allocation of 7,000 tickets were all sold out online, well in advance of the opening day. The museum plans to allow 5,000 to 8,000 visitors per day, although that figure could be adjusted. The admission fee is \$24, although relatives of Sept. 11 victims and rescue and recovery workers can enter free.

There were some dissenting voices among the visitors. Todd Fine, an amateur historian and a leader of a grass-roots movement to increase recognition of downtown Manhattan's Arab-American past, called on the museum to redo the exhibition's video presentation on the ideological roots of the attacks, which he described as "very problematic." □



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Protesters arrested in pay fight at McDonald's HQ

PRIYA SRIDHAR

CANDICE CHOI

Associated Press

OAK BROOK, Illinois (AP)

— Protesters were arrested after crossing a barricade outside McDonald's headquarters on Wednesday, as hundreds demonstrated to call attention to the low pay earned by fast-food workers.

The actions come ahead of the company's annual shareholders meeting Thursday, where it is also expected to be confronted on issues including its executive pay packages and marketing to children. Early Wednesday, organizers changed the location of their demonstration after learning McDonald's closed the building where they had planned their actions and told employees there to work from home. The corporate headquarters in Oak Brook, Illinois, has several buildings on a

sprawling campus.

Down the street from Hamburger University, dozens of police officers in riot gear warned protesters to disperse.

People dressed in McDonald's uniforms essentially volunteered to be arrested by peacefully crossing a barricade.

Organizers said about 100 McDonald's workers who traveled from around the country were arrested, along with community leaders and supporters.

Among them was Mary Kay Henry, president of the Service Employees International Union, who said in a statement released after her arrest that she wanted McDonald's workers to know her union members stood with them.

The SEIU has been providing financial and organizational support to the fast-food protests, which began in late 2012 in New



Hundreds of protesters flooded the streets near the McDonald's Corp. headquarters in Oak Brook, Ill. Wednesday, May 21, 2014, railing about low wages and seeking \$15 per hour for the rank and file. The Wednesday protest is a preview of what the group said it plans for Thursday's annual stockholder's meeting. The company closed one of its five buildings in anticipation of the protests.

(AP Photo / Daily Herald, Bev Horne)

York City and have been spreading to other cities and countries.

While turnout for the protests has varied, they've nevertheless struck a chord

at a time when the gap between the country's rich and poor has widened. Executive pay packages are coming under greater scrutiny too, and share-

holders last week rebuked Chipotle Mexican Grill's compensation of \$25.1 million and \$24.4 million for its co-CEOs in a non-binding, advisory vote.

Police:

Woman found 10 years after abduction

GILLIAN FLACCUS

Associated Press

SANTA ANA, California

(AP) — A woman who was 15 when she disappeared from her California home a decade ago has contacted police and told them she was kidnapped by a man who sexually assaulted her, forced her into marriage and fathered a child with her, authorities said Wednesday.

Police have arrested Isidro Garcia, 41, of Bell Gardens, on suspicion of kidnapping for rape, lewd acts with a minor and false imprisonment, according to a statement from the Santa Ana Police Department. In 2004, when the victim was 15, Garcia was dating



This Tuesday, May 20, 2014, photo shows suspect Isidro Garcia, age 41 of Bell Gardens, Calif. who was arrested in Santa Ana, Calif.

(AP Photo/Santa Ana PD)

her mother and lived with the family, authorities said. The mother suspected that he was sexually abusing her daughter, police said. In June 2004, Gar-

cia assaulted the mother, drugged the girl and then fled with her to a house in Compton, locking her in a garage, the statement said. Garcia provided the girl with false identification and used physical and emotional abuse to prevent her from fleeing, police said. Garcia repeatedly told the victim that her family had stopped searching for her and that they would be deported if she tried to leave, the statement said. They also moved frequently to avoid being found, police said. The woman, now 25, came forward to police after finding her sister on Facebook, and told her story to officers Tuesday, police said.

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Las Vegas hotels go boutique in new era

MICHELLE RINDELS

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP)—For years, Las Vegas took the bigger-is-better route, building expansive glassy megaresorts with 4,000 rooms apiece and seemingly endless check-in counters.

But with just 188 rooms, the newest hotel-casino on the Strip takes a different tack. Managers of The Cromwell hope to impress guests not with an imposing tower, but with unexpected details such as in-room hair straighteners and backgammon boards and free, self-serve coffee stations in the elevator lobby of each floor.

"The problem is, Vegas likes to do things on a grand scale," said Karie Hall, general manager of the boutique hotel that opened to the public Wednesday. "It's far more likely (Cromwell staff) will be able to recognize the guest and customize their experience."

The stand-alone Cromwell, along with the one-year-old Nobu Hotel and a smattering of other small hotels-within-hotels and off-Strip properties in Las Vegas, reflect a customer base that's increasingly interested in distinctive interior design and foodie culture. Gone are the days when hotel restaurants were afterthoughts and loss leaders, and when all customers wanted out of their room was a place to crash after a gambling binge.

"They don't want to just stay in a property. They want to experience a property," said Frances Kirdjian, founder and chairwoman of the Boutique and Lifestyle Lodging Association. "These properties are like a destination unto themselves."

Both The Cromwell and the 182-room Nobu are built

around celebrity chefs. Food Network star Giada de Laurentiis chose The Cromwell as the site of her first restaurant, which overlooks an iconic Strip intersection and features a \$30,000 prosciutto slicer and baristas who brew coffees out of custom-roasted Gran Reserva beans. At Nobu, the first hotel venture for internationally acclaimed Japanese chef

full of suitcase-toting tourists and helping patrons skirt long lines for taxis. At Hotel 32, a 50-room hotel-within-a-hotel that occupies the top floor of the Monte Carlo, customers are whisked to a private lobby where they sip cocktails while a personal suite assistant checks them in. After a 2008 fire at the Monte Carlo damaged some penthouses, officials de-

while MGM Grand offers a personal butler for guests at its exclusive SkyLofts. But boutiques such as The Cromwell, Nobu and Hotel 32 offer personalized service at more accessible prices. A Cromwell room with one king will cost less than \$200 on a weekday in June. Nobu's offers a one-king room at about \$150 on a weekday in June. The rates are within reach



This artist rendering released by Caesars Entertainment Corp. shows the swanky 188-room hotel named the Cromwell. Managers of The Cromwell hope to impress guests not with an imposing tower, but with unexpected details such as in-room hair straighteners and backgammon boards and free, self-serve coffee stations in the elevator lobby of each floor.

(AP Photo/Caesars Entertainment Corp.)

and restaurateur Nobu Matsuhisa, customers order room service from an exclusive menu. Breakfast in bed might include green tea waffles or soba pancakes with pecan miso butter. "It's about making sure you put together something you can only have here," said Gigi Vega, general manager of the Nobu Hotel.

Boutiques in Las Vegas aim to address some of the inconveniences of large resorts, forgoing vast lobbies

cided to reopen the floor in 2009 with a design and amenities so different it necessitated its own name. "The guests appreciate it that it feels exclusive. You have to be in the know to know about it," said Monte Carlo General Manager Patrick Miller.

Many Las Vegas hotels offer separately branded accommodations for their most well-heeled guests. Several floors of the Mandalay Bay belong to the sumptuous Four Seasons,

of customers in their 20s who might visit Drai's Nightclub and Beach Club, which opens Friday on the roof of The Cromwell.

Sharing the same prime corner as Caesars Palace, Bellagio and Bally's, The Cromwell is expected to bring parent company Caesars Entertainment more return than it did in its previous incarnation as Bill's Gamblin' Hall and Saloon, a folksy casino praised online for cheap beer, cheap steaks and cheap rooms. □

PetSmart to stop selling pet treats created in China

JOSEPH PISANI

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—PetSmart said it will join rival Petco and stop selling dog and cat treats made in China because of ongoing fears that the treats are making pets sick.

Investigators at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration haven't been able to prove that treats made in China are making pets ill. But since 2007, the agency has received more than 4,800 complaints of pet illnesses and more than 1,000 reports of dog deaths after eating Chinese-made chicken, duck or sweet potato jerky treats.

PetSmart Inc., which runs more than 1,300 stores, plans to have the treats off of its shelves by March 2015. Spokeswoman Michelle Friedman said Wednesday that the "vast majority" of treats sold in its stores are not made in China. She said some customers like the treats that are made in China and the company is looking to replace them with something similar.

Asked why the products couldn't be taken off the shelves sooner, she said "We don't want to leave pet parents high and dry."

Rival Petco is removing them sooner. It said Tuesday that it plans to stop selling them from its 1,300 stores by the end of this year. It began cutting down on the amount of Chinese-made treats it sold three years ago.

"We know the FDA hasn't yet identified a direct cause for the reported illnesses, but we decided the uncertainty of the situation outweighs the lack of actual proof," said Petco CEO Jim Myers. □

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US Financial Front:

Federal Reserve began weighing options for rate rise

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve has begun to discuss the tools it could use to finally pull back the extraordinary stimulus it's provided the U.S. economy since 2008. But Fed officials plan further discussions and have set no timetable for any increase in interest rates.

Minutes of the Fed's April 29-30 meeting released Wednesday show that officials discussed how to unwind the support they've given the economy once they decide to begin raising the Fed's key short-term rate. That rate has remained at a record low near zero since December 2008. The minutes stressed that the discussion should not be viewed as a signal that an increase in short-term rates is imminent. Because the economy is still recovering, most analysts don't think the Fed will start boosting rates before the second half of 2015.

Economists said there was little new information in the minutes, which were released as usual three weeks after the most recent Fed meeting.

"Nothing in the minutes challenges our view that bond buying will end this year but that interest-rate hikes will wait until late 2015," said Paul Edelstein, director of financial economics at IHS Global Insight.

The Fed is moving into uncharted territory. Never before has it considered rais-

ing rates with its investment holdings of Treasury bonds and mortgage-backed securities at such high levels. The Fed has conducted three rounds of bond purchases in the past five years, driving its balance sheet above \$4 trillion, to try to keep long-term rates low to boost the economy. In December, it began scaling back its purchases. But officials have said that even when they stop buying bonds late this year, they don't plan to start selling their holdings.

The Fed's discussion of its

exit strategy involves how it

will manage its investment

holdings during a period

when it will be starting to

raise short-term rates.

The Fed published an exit

strategy in 2011. But offi-

cials have said that plan

needs to be updated to

take account of changing

economic circumstances

and the fact that the bond

holdings have grown so

much. They're now four

times their size before the

financial crisis hit with force

in the fall of 2008.

The minutes said no deci-

sions on modifying the exit

plan were made at the

April meeting. Rather, Fed

officials requested that the

Fed staff further analyze

the available options. The

committee said it was time

for the Fed to review its op-

tions for winding down its

stimulus. It also said the Fed

would need to communi-

cate its plans clearly to the

public.

The minutes noted that "a

number of participants"



Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen speaks on Capitol Hill in Washington. The Federal Reserve has begun to discuss the tools it could use to finally pull back the extraordinary stimulus it's provided the U.S. economy since 2008.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

thought it would be useful to provide more information on how long the Fed will continue rolling over its holdings of Treasury and mortgage bonds when they come due. One issue is whether the Fed will modify a view that it would likely start selling its bond holdings before it began raising short-term rates.

William Dudley, president of the Fed's New York regional bank, this week raised the possibility of delaying a sell-off in the Fed's bonds until after it starts raising rates. Investors are looking for any hints about when the Fed will begin reducing its holdings, a step that could drive long-term rates up.

Meeting with reporters

Wednesday, Dudley also noted continued weakness in the job market, a key focus of the Fed's support programs.

"Many middle-skilled workers displaced during the recession are likely to find their old jobs will never come back," Dudley said. The Fed's minutes noted the prospect of stronger economic growth after a

harsh winter. But the Fed also said "a number of participants pointed to possible sources of downside risk to growth, including a persistent slowdown in the housing sector or potential international developments, such as a further slowing of growth in China or an increase in geopolitical tensions regarding Russia and Ukraine." □

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GM adds 218,000 subcompacts to growing recall list

TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — General Motors has added yet another recall to its growing list for the year.

The recall of 218,000 Chevrolet Aveo subcompact cars is the company's 29th this year, bringing the total number of recalled GM vehicles in the U.S. to around 13.8 million. That breaks GM's previous annual record of 10.75 million set in calendar year 2004.

The new recall, posted Wednesday on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website, covers Aveos from the 2004 through 2008 model years. The daytime running light module in the dashboard center stack can overheat, melt and catch fire. GM is aware of an unspecified number of fires due to the

problem, but spokesman Alan Adler says it does not know of any injuries or

deaths. GM says it is still developing a plan to fix the problem

and will provide details as soon as possible. The high number of recalls

this year is fallout from a deadly ignition switch problem in compact cars that is responsible for at least 13 deaths. GM has admitted knowing about the problem for at least a decade, yet it didn't recall the cars until February of this year.

On Tuesday GM announced it would recall 2.4 million vehicles in the U.S. In May alone, GM has recalled about 5.5 million cars and trucks.

Last week the company agreed to pay a \$35 million federal fine for concealing deadly defects in small-car ignition switches. Although the company says the death toll from the ignition switches is at least 13, trial lawyers suing the company say it's at least 53.

The Detroit automaker said it will take a \$400 million charge for repairs on all vehicles recalled so far this quarter. That's on top of a \$1.3 billion charge the automaker took for recalls in the first quarter.

Jeff Boyer, the company's new safety chief, said in a recent interview that the ignition switch recall led the company to examine all of its safety issues, and that has resulted in the spate of recalls. GM has added 35 safety investigators and has moved Boyer's position up to the level of vice president. "We're not waiting for warranty trends to develop over time," he said in the interview. "It's not only about frequency, it has to be about the seriousness of the potential defect as well."

Adler said the Suzuki Forenza, which GM made under contract for the Japanese car company, also is affected by the recall. Details of that recall will come from Suzuki, he said. □



This photo provided by General Motors shows the 2007 Chevrolet Aveo LT. General Motors on Wednesday, May 21, 2014 recalled 218,000 Chevrolet Aveo subcompact cars, model years 2004 through 2008. The daytime running light module in the dashboard center stack can overheat, melt and catch fire.

(AP Photo/General Motors)

US charges egg company, 2 execs in 2010 outbreak

RYAN J. FOLEY
Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — A company and two executives were charged Wednesday with selling the eggs responsible for a 2010 salmonella outbreak that sickened thousands of people and led to an unprecedented recall of 550 million eggs.

Disgraced egg industry titan Austin "Jack" DeCoster and his son Peter DeCoster were charged with introducing adulterated food into interstate commerce, a misdemeanor. A charging document filed in federal court in Iowa alleges the pair and their company sold shell eggs tainted with the strain of salmonella blamed in the monthslong outbreak of 2010.

Their company, Quality Egg LLC, which includes the De-

Custers' network of chicken and egg-laying farms in rural northern Iowa, is charged with introducing misbranded food into interstate commerce, a felony. The document says Quality Egg sold products from 2006 to 2010 with labeling that "made the eggs appear to be not as old as they actually were."

The company is also charged with bribing a public official, a felony, for an alleged 2010 payment meant to influence a U.S. Department of Agriculture inspector to approve shell eggs that had been held back for failing to meet federal standards. Attorneys representing the DeCosters and the company didn't immediately return messages. The charges were filed in a document

known as an information, which means they waived their right to be indicted and are expected to plead guilty as part of a plea agreement. No court date was immediately set. Seattle attorney Bill Marler, who represented some of the victims of the outbreak, praised prosecutors for bringing the charges.

The Food and Drug Administration Quality blamed Egg, which marketed itself as Wright County Egg, for selling the tainted products that led to the outbreak. Another Iowa egg company with ties to DeCoster's operations, Hillendale Farms, was also implicated. The companies recalled 550 million eggs in 2010 after public health officials found a sharp spike in reports of salmonella, which causes fever, cramps and

diarrhea and can require hospitalization.

Scientists traced the illnesses back to shell eggs from those farms that were served in restaurants and sold in grocery stores under several brand names. FDA investigators found salmonella all over the farms, along with filthy conditions including dead chickens, insects, rodents and towers of manure.

The Centers for Disease Control says more than 1,900 reported illnesses were linked to the outbreak, the largest of this specific strain of salmonella since the start of the agency's surveillance of outbreaks in the late 1970s. The CDC estimates that it also caused as many as 60,000 unreported illnesses. No deaths were reported. □

Recovery from Balkan floods will cost billions

AIDA CERKEZ
JOVANA GEC
Associated Press

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Recovering from the record flooding of the past week will cost Bosnia and Serbia billions that neither country has, officials said Wednesday. Although there's no official total for flood damages, the Raiffeisen Investment Group said in a note to investors that preliminary estimates are nearly 1.3 billion euros (\$1.8 billion) for Bosnia alone. Bosnian President Bakir Izetbegovic said the damage bill would reach the billions.

In neighboring Serbia, Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said damages could reach 1.5 billion euros (\$2 billion).

Both countries already have opened negotiations with the European Union to support reconstruction efforts.

Separately, Bosnia's Serb region has opened talks with its ally Russia.

The flooding affected 40 percent of Bosnia, Foreign Minister Zlatko Lagumdzija

said. It wrecked the main agriculture industry in the northern flatlands, wiping out infrastructure, farms, buildings and homes. One quarter of the country's 4 million people have been affected by the six days of floods and 2,100 landslides. "This country has not experienced such a natural cataclysm ever," Lagumdzija said Wednesday.

The flooding has led to at least 51 deaths: 27 in Serbia, 22 in Bosnia, and two in Croatia.

Serbia's minister for construction, transportation and infrastructure, Zorana Mihajlovic, said 3,500 kilometers (2,200 miles) of roads have been destroyed or damaged and 30 percent of railway lines are closed.

"It's an enormous tragedy," said Kristalina Georgieva of the European Commission's International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response unit. The EU has deployed rescue workers, helicopters, boats, tents and other aid from 16 member countries and plans more help. □

US sends troops to aid in the hunt for Nigerian schoolgirls

ERIC SCHMITT
© 2014 New York Times

WASHINGTON — The United States has sent 80 service members to Chad in Central Africa to support a growing international effort in neighboring Nigeria to help locate and rescue the schoolgirls who were abducted by an Islamist extremist group last month, White House officials said Wednesday.

The U.S. military personnel are not ground troops. They are mostly Air Force flight crew members, maintenance specialists and security officers for unarmed Predator surveillance drones that will help search for the more than 260 Nigerian girls seized by the group, Boko Haram.

"These personnel will support the operation of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft for

missions over northern Nigeria and the surrounding area," read a White House statement formally notifying Congress about the deployment.

For the past 10 days, the U.S. military has been flying manned and unmanned surveillance aircraft over heavily forested regions in northeastern Nigeria, where intelligence officials believe the captors are hiding the girls. But the aircraft have had to fly hundreds of miles to reach the search area, limiting the time they can loiter over the region.

In contrast, the Predators will operate from a large air base in N'Djamena, the Chadian capital, very near the search area across the border. France, the former colonial power in Chad, has long stationed fighter jets and other aircraft at the same air base. □



A Bosnian woman cycles past a flooded cemetery in the village of Domaljevac near the Bosnian town of Orasje along river Sava, 200 kms north of Bosnian capital of Sarajevo, on Wednesday, May 21, 2014. Floodwaters receded Wednesday in Bosnia and Serbia, just enough to reveal the next shock: recovery from the historic flood will probably cost billions of euros that neither of the countries has.

(AP Photo/Amel Emric)

14TH ANNUAL SOUL BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL IN ARUBA

Soul beach

ROBIN THICKE **KENNY "BABYFACE" EDMONDS** **ASHANTI** **SWV** **RICKY SMILEY** **CHRIS SPENCER**

ARTIST LINEUP MAY CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
NO CAMERAS ALLOWED IN CONCERT

FRIDAY MAY 23 | SOUL BEACH COMEDY NIGHT 7-10PM
RICKY SMILEY . CHRIS SPENCER . SPECIAL K . CED DELANEY . LAVAR WALKER
Renaissance Festival Plaza (Oranjestad)

SATURDAY MAY 24 | SOUL BEACH MUSIC CONCERT 7-11PM
KENNY "BABYFACE" EDMONDS . ASHANTI . 'N Fuzion
Soul Beach Amphitheater (Adjacent to Reflexions) (Oranjestad)

SUNDAY MAY 25 | SOUL BEACH MUSIC CONCERT 7-11PM
ROBIN THICKE . SWV. Mystical Connection
Soul Beach Amphitheater (Adjacent to Reflexions) (Oranjestad)

TICKET OUTLETS: DEPALM TOURS DESKS AT MAJOR HOTELS, DRAGON CD & ELECTRONICS - SAN NICHOLAS, FUN MILES - ORANJESTAD, MOOMBA BEACH - PALM BEACH, REFLEXIONS - ORANJESTAD, SETAR - SELECT LOCATIONS, SOPRANOS PIANO BAR - ORANJESTAD, VALERO - BOULEVARD, VALERO, VALERO - ESSOVILLE, VALERO - PALM BEACH, VALERO - PONTOON, VALERO - SANTA CRUZ

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UN applauds Uruguay's plan to take Syrian refugees

L. HABERKORN

Associated Press

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay

(AP) — The United Nations' refugee commission expressed gratitude Wednesday that Uruguay is preparing to provide a new home for 100 children orphaned by Syria's civil war.

Senior regional UNHCR official Michelle Alfaro said there are more than 2 million Syrian refugees in all, and Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan can't handle them all, so the agency hopes to relocate 30,000 this year. Germany took 5,000 Syrian refugees last year and has agreed to take another 5,000 this year. Brazil has granted humanitarian visas to 2,000.

President Jose Mujica's of-

fer to take 100 children "is a drop in the ocean, but each effort by each country is very important and welcome," Alfaro said.

Mujica said the orphans could be housed at first at the presidency's summer retreat, a mansion and riverfront estate surrounded by rolling pastures. But Alfaro said the U.N. High Commission for Refugees almost never relocates orphans without their families — each child will have to come with at least one other relative. That means the total number Uruguay eventually accepts still must be worked out, particularly since Mujica's government would be responsible for all their expenses.

"These children are with an

uncle, a brother, a cousin," Alfaro said.

Foreign Minister Luis Almagro said the first Syrian children could arrive as early as September from camps in the Middle East. Alfaro said there are 600,000 Syrian refugees in Jordan, more than 700,000 in Turkey and more than 1 million in Lebanon. "Their situation is dramatic. These countries are overflowing," she said. Mujica proposed taking the children several weeks ago, and at first said he would like to consult the Uruguayan people about it. But preparations have advanced without even congressional oversight. Some opposition lawmakers have complained that the ruling Broad Front coali-

tion should worry first about Uruguay's own poor children.

Some opponents have accused Mujica of angling for the Nobel Peace Prize after his fellow coalition members sent in a nomination. Mujica told The Associated Press recently that he is not interested in that honor and doubted he could be a contender, but added that if he did win, he would use the prize money to build 50 houses for Plan Juntos, his government's subsidized housing program. Mujica's wife, Sen. Lucia Topolansky, said the idea for taking in orphans is to "motivate all the countries of the world to take responsibility for this catastrophe" in Syria.

Egypt: Mubarak convicted over embezzlement

DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK

© 2014 New York Times

CAIRO - A criminal court here convicted former President Hosni Mubarak on Wednesday of embezzling millions of dollars of public money for his personal use in private homes and palaces in a case that rights advocates say could now implicate the current prime minister and spy chief as well. After his conviction by the three-judge court, Mubarak, who is 86 and living in a military hospital overlooking the Nile, was sentenced to three years in prison. His sons, Gamal and Alaa, were each sentenced to four years for their roles in the embezzlement scheme. The court ordered the three to pay penalties and make repayments totaling more than \$20 million, apparently in addition to \$17 million they have already repaid.

The former president received a life sentence in a separate case two years ago, for directing the killing of hundreds of protesters during the uprising that ended his rule in 2011. But the presiding judge acknowledged at the time that the evidence was thin, and an appeals court threw out the conviction and ordered a retrial. Mubarak is expected to appeal the latest verdict as well, although the evidence in this case — including more than a thousand original and forged receipts as well as the testimony of participants in the fraud — is far more substantial.

Mubarak "gave himself and his sons license to embezzle public funds, helping themselves without oversight or consideration," Judge Osama Shafeen said in announcing the verdict Wednesday. "Therefore, they deserve to be punished."

Whether Mubarak remains in the military hospital by his own choice or under a form of detention is unclear, and there were no signs of his immediate transfer to prison Wednesday. □

Nigerian extremists strike villages, 48 dead

AHMED SAKA

MICHELLE FAUL

Associated Press

JOS, Nigeria (AP) — Islamic militants killed 48 villagers in northeastern Nigeria near the town where they kidnapped 300 schoolgirls, and the U.S. said Wednesday it was sending in 80 military personnel to expand the drone search for the captives.

The developments came hours after twin car bombings claimed at least 130 lives in this central city — an escalating campaign of violence blamed on the Boko Haram terrorist network and its drive to impose an Islamic state on Nigeria. The three villages attacked overnight Tuesday and early Wednesday are near the town of Chibok, where the girls were abducted from their boarding school in a brazen April 15 assault that has ignited a global movement to secure their freedom. First lady Michelle Obama is among those who have joined a viral social media campaign under the hashtag #BringBackOurGirls, tweeting earlier this month, "Our prayers are with the missing Nigerian girls and their families. It's time to #BringBackOurGirls." On Wednesday, President Barack Obama an-

nounced that the U.S. was sending in 80 military personnel to help in the search for the missing schoolgirls. In a letter to House Speaker John Boehner and the Senate, Obama said the ser-

gion.

The U.S. mission will help expand drone searches of the region, said Lt. Col. Myles Caggins, adding that this latest deployment will not be involved in ground

Chad and allow the military to expand its search effort, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.



Red Cross personnel search for remains at the site of one of Tuesday's car bomb in Jos, Nigeria, Wednesday, May 21, 2014. Two car bombs exploded at a bustling bus terminal and market the central Nigeria city, killing at least 118 people, wounding dozens and leaving bloodied bodies amid the flaming debris.

(AP Photo/Sunday Alamba)

vice members were being sent to Chad, which borders northeastern Nigeria, to help with intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft missions over Nigeria and the nearby re-

searches. The drone a Predator — will be in addition to the unarmed Global Hawks already being used, a senior U.S. official said. The new flights will be based out of

The government of Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan has come under intense national and international criticism for its lack of progress in rescuing the 276 schoolgirls. □

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Tickets available at Jolly Pirates Shop at MooMba Beach. Boarding at MooMba Beach- by the high rise hotels between Holiday Inn and Marriott Resorts. Offer not valid in combination with other discount offers. Valid for direct telephone reservations ONLY - Present coupon at boarding **586 8107/592 7858**

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Worrying rise in Rio's assaults ahead of World Cup

JENNY BARCHFIELD

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Marcelo Gomez was taking the bus home from a soccer match at Maracana stadium, where the World Cup final will be played, when a teenager slid into the seat beside him and another boy took the seat behind him.

The one next to him growled at Gomez to hand over his wallet and cellphone, whispering that his friend had a gun. The 35-year-old truck driver didn't see any weapon, but as is standard practice in Brazil, where thieves often kill if met with resistance, he handed over his belongings. The boys then moved on to rob another passenger a few rows back, then others after that.

Such muggings on public transportation, at public beaches and in popular tourist areas are on the rise in Rio de Janeiro, eroding the strides the city had made in security in recent years as it geared up to host seven World Cup games and the 2016 Olympics.

Muggings on Rio's bus fleet, the main form of public transport in this metropolis of 12 million, doubled over the last year, the state's ISP security statistics agency says. More than 420 incidents were reported in January alone, compared with 195 in the same month a year earlier, returning such incidents to their peak level of four years ago.

The phenomenon also dovetails with a general rise in non-transit related muggings and robberies. In

the first three months of the year, the number of muggings reported in the city's marquee Copacabana neighborhood rose nearly 60 percent from the same period a year earlier. Paulo Storani, a security expert who spent nearly 30 years on Rio's police force,

banks and at ATMs and recommended against resisting thieves. British and German authorities have made similar recommendations.

The situation in Rio's public transit has gotten so bad that state lawmakers have proposed the creation of

World Cup by around 20 percent.

But with little concrete improvement so far, Rio residents are turning to the Internet for help. A website called "Where I Was Robbed" allows users to pinpoint the exact location of muggings, carjackings



In photo, tourists pose for a photo at the Leblon beach, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Muggings on public transportation, public beaches and in popular tourist areas are on the rise in Rio de Janeiro, eroding the strides the city had made in security in recent years as it geared up to host six World Cup matches and the 2016 Olympic.

(AP Photo/Hassan Ammar)

said at least half of the 12 World Cup host cities have experienced a recent rise in violent crime. He attributed the increases to a feeling of impunity.

"People do not recognize the authority of government officials, and as a result criminals are more at ease to commit their crimes because they feel they will not be arrested or punished," Storani said.

The U.S. State Department has warned its citizens traveling to Brazil of "frequent" robberies on city buses, in

a specialized police battalion for the city's fleet of nearly 9,000 buses. Rio Gov. Luiz Fernando Pezao reportedly favors the proposal but it needs to clear several more legislative hurdles.

Pezao characterized the city's fight against criminality as "a war."

Rio state's top security official, Jose Mariano Beltrame, has responded to the spike in crime by beefing up the number of officers who will be on duty during the June 12-July 13

and other crimes in the city. Users of the site have tagged more than 360 mass muggings on public transit since the beginning of the year.

It's not just robberies that have made public transportation in Rio dangerous. A year ago, the gang rape of an American student aboard a public transit van made headlines around the world. The student and her French boyfriend hailed the van in Copacabana. The van's driver, money-taker and another

man soon forced the other passengers to disembark, tied up the Frenchman and subjected the woman to what a police investigator described as an all-night-long "party of evil," raping her repeatedly.

Although investigators quickly tracked down those responsible, it emerged that police had failed to follow up on earlier reports by Brazilian women who were raped by the trio under similar circumstances.

The issue of sexual violence in public transport captured headlines again earlier this year, this time in Sao Paulo, which is hosting the World Cup's opening match. Authorities there detained several men for allegedly accosting women on subways and buses, sometimes filming them with cellphones and posting the videos of the molestations on social media. Dilma Rousseff, Brazil's first woman president, said on Twitter that such acts "shame our society."

While it's unclear if the rate of sexual assault has increased in the past year, the high-profile attacks have fueled the widespread perception that using public transportation is dangerous.

Sao Paulo's flurry of public transit crimes coincides with an increase in robberies, with the number of monthly reports up nearly 50 percent.

In Rio, the crime spike comes despite a "pacification" program launched in 2008 that brought police outposts to "favela" slums where the state had long been absent. □

Europe's cabbies decry competition from Uber app

COLLEEN BARRY
AP Business Writer

MILAN (AP) — Milan's taxis sat idle for a fifth straight day Wednesday to protest competition from the ride-hailing app Uber, a high-tech challenge that has Europe weighing its consumer benefits versus its threat to old business models.

Uber, a San Francisco start-up, has been banned in Brussels and faces court scrutiny in Berlin. Milan's 5,000 taxi drivers sought similar curbs as they lobbied Italy's transport minister, but at the end of Wednesday's meeting, he told them bluntly to get back to work.

Since the arrival of Uber over the past 18 months, taxi drivers across the continent have been adamant about protecting their turf from the mobile app. It allows consumers to book a ride over a mobile device, breaking free of rigid fare structures criticized as protectionist.

In Paris, drivers for private car services, including Uber, had their vehicles vandalized when they kept operating during a taxi strike. And in Spain, the National Taxi Federation has called for Uber to be banned, saying it was putting 100,000 jobs at risk. Alfonso Faccioli, a leader of the Milan wildcat pro-

tests, said Uber represents unfair competition to taxi drivers, who can pay up to 160,000 euros (\$220,000) for a license.

"We are fighting to defend our livelihoods," he said at a protest at the taxi stands outside Milan's train station.

The European Commission

10,000-euro (\$13,700) fines for offenders. She said the judgment seeks to protect cartel-like taxi services and is impractical to enforce. "Are the police now going to spy on our phones to see when we are making Uber bookings? Don't you think the police in Brussels have something better to do?"

successful in slowing market reforms. He said they have maintained relatively high fares and restricted the number of licenses, which ensures a high resale value on them. But they may now have met their match in Uber. Beria said Uber's technology would be "more dif-



Taxi drivers protest in Milan, Italy, Wednesday, May 21, 2014. Milan's taxis have been idle for five days to protest the ride-hailing app Uber, the latest European challenge to a technological advance against old business models. Uber, a San Francisco startup, has been banned in Brussels and is under court scrutiny in Berlin. Milan's 5,000 taxi drivers are seeking similar curbs when representatives meet with Italy's transport minister Wednesday.

(AP Photo/Federico Ferramola, Lapress)

beefs to differ. Its commissioner for digital technology issues, Neelie Kroes, has expressed outrage at the Brussels court decision to ban Uber and impose

she said. Paolo Beria, a professor of transportation economics at Milan's Polytechnical University, said taxi drivers in Italy so far have been

ficult to stop" because it is so easy to deploy and use. Kroes said her staff has used the service worldwide and loves it for its cost, convenience and safety. □

UN lowers world economic growth forecasts

EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations slightly lowered its forecasts for global economic growth in 2014 and 2015 on Wednesday citing a variety of reasons including the exceptionally cold winter in the United States, the escalating political crisis in Ukraine, and financial turbulence earlier this year.

The new forecasts predict economic growth of 2.8 percent in 2014 and 3.2 percent in 2015, down from U.N. forecasts in December of 3 percent growth this year and 3.3 percent growth next year.

Pingfan Hong, the head of the U.N.'s Global Econom-

ic Monitoring Unit, told a news conference launching the report that "more than five years after the financial crisis, the world economy has not recovered back to running at full capacity." Hong said one reason the U.N. lowered its forecasts was because it did not take into account the colder than usual winter in North America, which significantly impeded economic activity in the United States.

Nonetheless, the U.S. forecasts remained unchanged — 2.5 percent in 2014 and 3.2 percent in 2015.

The escalating political crisis in Ukraine and Russia's takeover of Crimea

also had an impact on the U.N. forecast because they seriously hurt Ukraine's economy and sparked "a massive outflow of capital" from Russia, and further weakened business and consumer confidence in the country, the report said. Ukraine's economy was initially projected to grow by 2.1 percent this year, but the new forecast projects that it will shrink by 2 percent.

Russia's economy, which had been expected to grow by 2.9 percent this year, will also be hard-hit, with the new forecast projecting just 1 percent economic growth.

Hong said the U.N. had also largely discounted the

impact of the U.S. Federal Reserve's decision to taper its bond-buying stimulus program, which had injected more than \$2 trillion into financial markets since late 2008 and kept borrowing costs down.

The impact on the growth of a few emerging economies "was larger than we anticipated," he said.

Hong said one of the key risks for continued global growth and financial stability is the possible shock to the world economy when the Federal Reserve phases out the program, which the U.N. expects in late 2014, and then starts increasing interest rates, which the U.N. expects to start in mid-2015. □

Japan's trade deficit narrows over imports

ELAINE KURTENBACH
AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's trade deficit narrowed in April after the yen strengthened and a sales tax hike dampened demand for imports of consumer goods. Costs for imports of oil and gas that account for about a third of the country's imports moderated, reflecting a rise in the yen after a year of decline and decreases in shipments of some fuels. The 808.9 billion yen (\$8 billion) deficit in April, according to preliminary figures released Wednesday by the Ministry of Finance, compared with a gap of 877.4 billion yen a year earlier and with a 1.7 trillion yen deficit in March.

Japan's exports are improving as the economy emerges from a protracted slump and recoveries gain momentum overseas, but Japanese manufacturers have shifted a large share of their production offshore to cut costs, avoid trade barriers and be closer to fast growing emerging markets.

The Bank of Japan wrapped up a two-day meeting Wednesday with no change in its ultra-loose monetary policy and an upbeat assessment of the economy, saying it was "expected to continue a moderate recovery as a trend."

But economists expect more action from the central bank later in the year.

"The chances of additional stimulus being announced as soon as July have shrunk substantially, but we still think that more easing will eventually be required," said Marcel Thieliant, an economist for Capital Economics based in Singapore. Imports surged in March as consumer and businesses rushed to beat the April 1 hike in the sales tax to 8 percent from 5 percent. In April, imports rose 3.4 percent to 6.88 trillion yen (\$68 billion), while exports climbed 5.1 percent from a year earlier to 6.07 trillion yen (\$60 billion), led by shipments of machinery and transport equipment. The deficit could widen again once sales pick up in coming months. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Party Time:

Soul Beach Music Festival Officially Begins!

ORANJESTAD - Ride the waves of Soul Beach Music Festival into 2014 and experience the heat in the chic island ambiance of Aruba from now until May



26 for one of the hottest R&B and Comedy festivals featuring world-renowned artists. Enjoy a Memorial Day Weekend like none other, packed with the hottest events and music acts while taking in the cosmopolitan beauty of Aruba and its people. Join the loyal Soul Beach followers and newcomers from around the world at the sexiest beaches, turned up day and night parties, concerts and more. Just when you thought it couldn't get hotter...soul beach 2014 is already in full swing! Don't miss out on this year's events!!!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 2014

THURSDAY MAY 22:

-LIVE RADIO REMOTE BROADCASTS
6am - 10am
Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino - Poolside (Oranjestad)
THE RICKY SMILEY MORNING SHOW - NATIONALLY SYNDICATED
10am - 2pm
MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)
THE AM/PM WORKLOAD

SHOW with GEE MONEY - LASER 101, ST. MAARTEN
10am - 3pm
MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

MID-DAY WITH TRISCINA

SHOW with GEE MONEY - LASER 101, ST. MAARTEN
10am - 3pm
MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

MID-DAY WITH TRISCINA

GREY - WHUR, WASH. DC

-SOUL BEACH DAYTIME EVENT

11am - 3pm (No Entry Fee)

MooMba Beach Party (Palm Beach)

FEATURING: DJ SIDEKICK (LOS ANGELES)

-CARUBBIAN FESTIVAL

6pm - 10pm (Entry Fee: TBD)

Location: San Nicholas

Packages and Information

available at all DePalm

Tours Hotel Desks

-NIGHTCLUB PARTY

10pm - 3am (Entry Fee

starts at \$20 at the door)

Hardrock Cafe (Noord)

FEATURING: DJ SIDEKICK (LOS ANGELES)

LOWED INTO CONCERT VENUES)

FEATURING: RICKY SMILEY; CHRIS SPENCER; SPECIAL K; CED DELANEY; LAVAR WALKER

-NIGHTCLUB PARTY

11pm - 3am

(Entry Fee starts at \$20 at the door)

Renaissance Convention

Center (Oranjestad)

FEATURING: FRANK SKI (WHUR - WASH, DC)

SATURDAY MAY 24:

-SOUL BEACH DAYTIME EVENT

11am - 3pm (No Entry Fee)

MooMba Beach Party (Palm Beach)

FEATURING: DJ SIDEKICK

(LOS ANGELES)

FEATURING: DJ SIDEKICK (LOS ANGELES)

MONDAY MAY 26:

-MEMORIAL DAY "COOL DOWN" BBQ

11am - 3pm (No Entry Fee)

Location: Moomba Beach

(Palm Beach)

FEATURING: DJ SIDEKICK (LOS ANGELES)

THE AM/PM WORKLOAD

SHOW with GEE MONEY - LASER 101, ST. MAARTEN
10am - 3pm
MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

MID-DAY WITH TRISCINA

GREY - WHUR, WASH. DC

-SOUL BEACH DAYTIME EVENT

11am - 3pm (No Entry Fee)

MooMba Beach Party (Palm Beach)

FEATURING: DJ SIDEKICK (LOS ANGELES)

-COMEDY CONCERT

7pm - 11pm

Renaissance Festival Plaza

(Oranjestad)

(NO CAMERAS WILL BE AL-

-MAIN STAGE CONCERT

7pm - 11pm

Soul Beach Amphitheater

(Adjacent to Reflexions)

(Oranjestad)

(NO CAMERAS WILL BE AL-

-MAIN STAGE CONCERT

7pm - 11pm

Soul Beach Amphitheater

(Adjacent to Reflexions)

(Oranjestad)

(NO CAMERAS WILL BE AL-

TI; 'N FUSION

HOSTED BY: CHRIS SPENCER

-NIGHTCLUB PARTY

11pm - 3am

(Entry Fee starts at \$20 at the door)

Reflexions Night Club

(Oranjestad)

FEATURING: MC LYTE (LOS

ANGELES) & DJ OUTKAST

(ST. MAARTEN)

THE AM/PM WORKLOAD

MONDAY MAY 26:

-MEMORIAL DAY "COOL DOWN" BBQ

11am - 3pm (No Entry Fee)

Location: Moomba Beach

(Palm Beach)

FEATURING: DJ SIDEKICK (LOS ANGELES)

THE AM/PM WORKLOAD

(LOS ANGELES)

-FRANK SKI'S CIGAR & COCKTAIL HOUR

4pm - 6pm (No Entry Fee)

Nos Clubhouse (next to

MooMba Beach - Palm

Beach)

FEATURING: FRANK SKI

(WHUR - WASH, DC)

-MAIN STAGE CONCERT

7pm - 11pm

Soul Beach Amphitheater

(Adjacent to Reflexions)

(Oranjestad)

(NO CAMERAS WILL BE AL-

-MAIN STAGE CONCERT

7pm - 11pm

Soul Beach Amphitheater

(Adjacent to Reflexions)

(Oranjestad)

(NO CAMERAS WILL BE AL-

FEATURING: ROBIN THICKE; SWV; MYSTICAL CONNECTION

HOSTED BY: CHRIS SPENCER

-NIGHTCLUB PARTY

11pm - 3am

(Entry Fee starts at \$20 at the door)

Reflexions Club (Oranjestad)

FEATURING: MC LYTE (LOS

ANGELES) & DJ OUTKAST

(ST. MAARTEN)

THE AM/PM WORKLOAD

MONDAY MAY 26:

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(Palm Beach)

FEATURING: DJ SIDEKICK (LOS ANGELES)

THE AM/PM WORKLOAD

SATURDAY MAY 24:

-SOUL BEACH DAYTIME EVENT

11am - 3pm (No Entry Fee)

MooMba Beach Party (Palm Beach)

FEATURING: DJ SIDEKICK

(LOS ANGELES)

THE AM/PM WORKLOAD

MONDAY MAY 26:

-MEMORIAL DAY "COOL DOWN" BBQ

11am - 3pm (No Entry Fee)

Location: Moomba Beach

(Palm Beach)

FEATURING: DJ SIDEKICK (LOS ANGELES)

THE AM/PM WORKLOAD

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THE AM/PM WORKLOAD

MONDAY MAY 26:

-MEMORIAL DAY "COOL DOWN" BBQ

11am - 3pm (No Entry Fee)

Location: Moomba Beach

<p

Loyal Visitors honored at the Costa Linda Beach Resort!



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, at the Costa Linda Beach Resort, as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as

a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Ed and Mrs. Judy Johnson of Mt. Vernon New York, Mr. Salvatore and Mrs. Nancy Carulli of Mt. Kisco New York, and Mrs. Linda Zablocki from South Boston,

Massachusetts. All the honorees are loyal members of the Costa Linda and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, and Aruba feels like a second home, the people are like a family to them and Costa



Beauty On The Beach

Ana Paula

She is visiting us from Argentina. Staying at the Tamarijn Beach Hotel, and she is here on vacation.

WINNER OF TRIP ADVISOR'S CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE 2012
Best Lobster House and International Cuisine's Restaurant



The Blue Lobster
INTERNATIONAL CUISINE & LOBSTER HOUSE
Phone: 586-3843

Linda is their home away from home. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Gloria Janga and Mrs. Miriam

Rodriguez representing the Costa Linda Beach Resort, Mimi Lampe and daughter whom are very good friends of the Carulli's and family members of the honorees. □



EVERY
THURSDAY
6:00pm-10:00pm

Package includes:

- Round-trip transportation from your hotel
- Entrance to the festival
- Dinner and beverages
- Entertainment – Carnival show, live music, and more
- A commemorative carnival mask

Where
Aruba's culture
becomes a total
caribbean experience



**The Caribbean Festival:
Aruba's Carnival experience
every week of the year!**

Most visitors don't have the opportunity to experience Aruba's cultural highlight of the year—Carnival (or, as we call it here, Carnaval). But now you can discover the colorful spirit of Aruba's Carnival every Thursday evening at the Caribbean Festival. Situated on the island's southern tip in the heart of San Nicolas where Caribbean and Aruban cultures meet, the Caribbean Festival brings Carnival to life with live Calypso and Soca music, a parade of glittery dancers showcasing many of our past Carnival's gorgeous costumes, festive brass bands, stilt walkers, hand-crafts, and traditional homemade cuisine of the Caribbean region.

We encourage you to spend an evening with the locals, and enjoy a taste of our culture at the Caribbean Festival. It's also a great family or group activity!

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT EVERY
De Palm Tours
DESK AT
YOUR
HOTEL



Price : \$64 per person. \$32 children 12 years and under.
Where : Main-Street San Nicolas
When : Thursdays from 6 pm to 10 pm

Information: visit your guest services desk in your hotel
for more information and tickets.

The Caribbean Festival is an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism, Transportation, Primary Sector and Culture. Operated by the Caribbean Foundation.



At the Marriott Surf Club:

Bob and Bev Beaudette honored on their 43rd Anniversary!



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple whom are loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, as Distinguished Visitors, at the Marriott Surf Club. The

symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Bob and Mrs. Bev Beaudette

of Wyandotte, Michigan who were also celebrating their 43rd Anniversary in Aruba on this vacation. The Beaudette's are loyal members of the Marriott Surf Club and they love Aruba very much because

of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, and being on Aruba and staying at the Surf Club is like being home for them and Mrs. Beaudette also says that her grandchildren say that Aruba is better

than Disney. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Jenny Boekhoudt representing the Marriott Surf Club. □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweaver has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words :fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



Winners of Int'l. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009



Catch your own dinner
A charter includes: captain, mate all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com
Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



In this July 24, 2005 file photo, overall leader Lance Armstrong signals seven for his seventh straight win in the Tour de France cycling race, as he rides during the 21st and final stage of the race between Corbeil-Essonnes, south of Paris, and the French capital. Associated Press

Armstrong stripped of Legion of Honor

JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Lance Armstrong has been stripped of his award in the Legion of Honor, the best-known recognition in France.

Armstrong was given the rank of "Chevalier" — or Knight — in the "Legion d'Honneur" in 2005, the last year of his seven consecutive Tour de France victories. He was later stripped of those titles for doping.

A Legion of Honor official, who wasn't authorized to be quoted by name, said Wednesday she was unable to indicate when the decision was made to remove Armstrong's award. She said the organization doesn't traditionally announce it publicly when honorees lose their decoration.

The Legion of Honor was created under Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, and roughly 1 million people have received it over the years. It is France's highest honor. □

REHEAT



Miami rallies late to get past Indiana, tie series

Page 19

Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade (3) puts up a shot against Indiana Pacers' Lance Stephenson (1) during the first half of Game 2 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals in Indianapolis, Tuesday, May 20, 2014. Associated Press

Rory McIlroy calls off engagement to Wozniacki

BERNIE MCGUIRE

Associated Press

VIRGINIA WATER, England (AP)—

Only a few days after sending out wedding invitations, golfer Rory McIlroy broke off his engagement to Danish tennis player Caroline Wozniacki on Wednesday. Uncomfortable and subdued, the two-time major winner spoke about the decision ahead of the BMW PGA Championship, only a few hours after first announcing the split in a statement.

"It is quite a difficult time for Caroline and myself, and the statement really said it all this morning," McIlroy said at Wentworth. "It was mutual and we both thought it was the best for us, the best for both of us. Time to move on, and I've said all that I need to say."

The 25-year-old McIlroy and 23-year-old Wozniacki have been dating since 2011. They were engaged on New Year's Eve in Australia.

The decision to call off the wedding came as surprise to many, especially since McIlroy had only recently spoke of his delight in meeting up with Wozniacki in London after competing in the Players Championship a couple of weeks ago. Wozniacki had been due to compete in an event in Rome but withdrew to meet up with him.

"Look, I'm no different than anyone else," the Northern Irishman said. "Everyone has been through breakups, and it's obviously very, very difficult. But look,

I'm here to try and concentrate on this week and answer questions about golf, and that's what I'm going to do."

Both McIlroy and Wozniacki have been the top-ranked player in their respective sports, but Wozniacki has not won a major title. McIlroy won his first major at the 2011 U.S. Open, and then added another a year later at the U.S. PGA Championship.

In the earlier statement, McIlroy took the blame for the breakup. "The problem is mine. The wedding invitations issued at the weekend made me realize that I wasn't ready for all that marriage entails," McIlroy said. "I wish Caroline all the happiness she deserves and thank her for the great times we've had. I will not be saying anything more about our relationship in any setting."

At Wentworth, McIlroy is among the top players at this week's European Tour flagship event.

"I'm not going to lie. It's going to be very difficult," McIlroy said of playing this week. "But you know, at least when I get inside the ropes, just try and concentrate on the shot at hand. But yeah, it's obviously going to be difficult."

At least McIlroy will have something to cheer him up. The Manchester United fan will play in the pro-am alongside three former stars from the club, Teddy Sheringham, Peter Schmeichel and Phil Neville.

"I've been a Manchester United fan my whole life, and getting to play with three Manchester



Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy in action during the pro-am for the BMW PGA Championship at the Wentworth Club, Surrey, England, Wednesday, May 21, 2014.

Associated Press

United legends is going to be a nice afternoon," McIlroy said. "I remember watching the Champions League final in '99 when

United beat (Bayern) Munich in Barcelona, and it was a very memorable night. All those three guys were involved." □



Australia's Michael Rogers celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the 11th stage of the Giro d'Italia, Tour of Italy cycling race, from Collecchio to Savona, Italy, Wednesday, May 21, 2014.

Associated Press

SAVONA, Italy (AP) — Michael Rogers took advantage of a downhill attack to win the 11th stage of the Giro d'Italia on Wednesday, while fellow Australian Cadel Evans retained the overall lead.

Rogers, who was recent-

ly cleared of a doping charge, attacked with more than 20 kilometers (12 miles) to go in the 249-kilometer (155-mile) leg from Collecchio to Savona, just after the pack got over a category 2 climb.

"I saw an opportunity at

Rogers wins 11th Giro stage; Evans retains lead

the top of the climb and I went for it," Rogers said after the nearly six-hour ride. The three-time world time trial champion from 2003-05 was suited to take advantage once the road flattened out for the final kilometers.

"From then on, it was all about keeping my head down, pedaling away, and I guess I was a little lucky that the GC guys were probably looking at each other, hesitating a bit," Rogers said.

Last month, the UCI accepted that meat Rogers ate in China probably caused his positive test last year. Clenbuterol is widely

administered to Chinese livestock to build muscle and reduce fat. Days later, he tested positive at the Japan Cup.

The UCI disqualified Rogers from the Japanese race but consulted the World Anti-Doping Agency before deciding he should not be sanctioned any further.

At the finish on Wednesday, Rogers held up three fingers for his three daughters, and beat his chest.

"I went through a very tough time but there's always light at the end of the tunnel," he said.

Simon Geschke of Germany won the bunch sprint

for second, crossing 10 seconds after Rogers, and Enrico Battaglin of Italy finished third with the same time.

Evans' 57-second lead over Rigoberto Uran remained unchanged entering Thursday's 42-kilometer (26-mile) individual time trial from Barbaresco to Barolo, which celebrates two of Italy's best-known wines. Before Wednesday's stage, Australian sprinter Michael Matthews withdrew citing back trouble. Matthews wore the leader's pink jersey for six stages and won the sixth leg.

The Giro ends on June 1 in Trieste. □

NBA Roundup

James helps Heat beat Pacers 87-83 in Game 2

MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Indiana thought it had taken control Tuesday night.

LeBron James and Dwyane Wade stole it right back.

The four-time MVP and perennial All-Star did what they always seem to - bailed out the Heat in a desperate moment. This time the two All-Stars spurred a decisive 12-2 fourth-quarter spurt that led Miami past Indiana 87-83 to tie the Eastern Conference series at 1-1.

"We're very confident coming down the stretch because we believe in our defense," Wade said. "When our defense is the way it should be us moving around, running around, doing the things we should do offensively we got two guys that we can put the ball in their hands and they make the best play for the team."

So you have confidence in that. That's why we don't break a sweat too much in those moments."

The two mainstays sure had to work hard, especially late, Tuesday.

Wade scored 10 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter, and James scored 12 of his 22 during the same 12-minute stretch. Together, they combined for Miami's final 20 points and all but three of the Heat's 25 points in the quarter - just enough to avoid falling into a 2-0 hole for the first time since the first round of the 2010 playoffs.

Miami has won 11 straight postseason games following a loss, a span covering 40 playoff games without back-to-back losses, and this one might have been their toughest job yet.

"Today was just about how bad we want it," Wade said. "This wasn't about Xs and Os. It was just about how bad do we want to win this game? We proved it. We showed it."

The Heat can take advantage of their opportunity when the series shifts back to Miami for Game 3 on

Saturday.

Frustrated Indiana had plenty of chances, too.

After wiping out a 41-37 halftime deficit and building a 63-56 lead late in the third quarter, the Pacers allowing James to find Chris Bosh and Norris Cole for open 3s that made it 63-62. When the Pacers rebuilt a 73-69 lead midway through the fourth quarter and had a chance to extend it, Roy Hibbert missed a 12-foot jumper. James and Wade dominated the rest of the game.

Indiana's Lance Stephenson tied his playoff career high with 25 points. Paul George had 14.

But it's the third straight series Indiana has lost home-court advantage in either Game 1 or 2 after fighting so hard to get the top seed in the East, and they know it won't be easy getting it back.

"We've got to go on their floor and take a game the same way they did," George said. "We gave this



Miami Heat's LeBron James is defended by Indiana Pacers' Roy Hibbert during the first half of Game 2 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals in Indianapolis, Tuesday, May 20, 2014.

Associated Press

one away, so we have to work even harder on their floor."

If James has anything to say about it, the Heat won't give up anything easy.

"It's not going to be pretty. Not in the Eastern Conference," James said. "It's never pretty basketball in the Eastern Conference. It's about who can sustain runs. You know, who can get defensive stops? Who can not turn the ball over and who can get great shots? I think we did that in the fourth."

At times, the rough-and-tumble night took on the aura of a football game, especially late.

When George and Wade collided chasing a loose ball, both came up grimacing. Wade held his left knee. George said afterward he had blurred vision and may have blacked out. Coach Frank Vogel would not confirm George's description.

Another time, James crashed hard to the floor when David West was called for a flagrant one foul in the fourth quarter, which was changed to a common foul following a replay review. There were

hard picks, tight defense and James and Wade back in their old groove.

Yet the Pacers were still in control with less than 7 minutes to go.

"We were winning the whole night," guard George Hill said. "We controlled the whole game until the last couple minutes."

Miami did it the hard way. Wade kept things close in the first half, and the defense that allowed 107 points in Game 1, limited the Pacers to nine points during a 10-minute stretch in the first half and closed it out with by allowing just 10 points over the final 7:19.

James hit a 3 to cut Indiana's lead to 73-72, and after Hibbert answered with a 6-foot hook shot, James scored six straight to start the decisive spurt.

"I needed to do something in the fourth," James said. "I did a great job in the third quarter of attacking and getting my guys some open looks."

I hit Cole for two 3s, hit CB for a 3, but I needed to make a few buckets as well to help us in the fourth quarter, and I was able to come through for us." □

Cavs continue lottery luck, get No. 1 pick again

NEW YORK (AP) — The Cleveland Cavaliers have continued their remarkable lottery luck, winning the No. 1 pick in the NBA draft for the second straight year.

It's the third time in four years the Cavaliers will be atop the draft after moving up from the ninth spot. They had just a 1.7 percent chance of winning the top spot Tuesday night.

They drafted Kyrie Irving first in 2011 and will hope to do better with this win than last year, when they took Anthony Bennett, who had a forgettable rookie season. The Milwaukee Bucks fell one spot to second and the Philadelphia 76ers will draft third. □



Cleveland Cavaliers general manager David Griffin, left, and minority owner Jeff Cohen celebrate after the Cavaliers won the top pick in the NBA basketball draft lottery in New York, Tuesday, May 20, 2014.

Associated Press

Teheran 6-hits Brewers for 2nd shutout

ATLANTA (AP) — Julio Teheran pitched a six-hitter for his second shutout of the season and Justin Upton had three RBIs as the Atlanta Braves won their third in a row, beating the slumping Milwaukee Brewers 5-0 Tuesday night.

It was another laugher in the matchup between first-place teams, the Braves jumping ahead with three runs in the third and cruising to victory after opening the series with a 9-3 rout. The Brewers have lost four in a row overall, their longest skid of 2014.

Teheran (3-3) bounced back from the shortest start of his career at San Francisco, where he lasted just 3 1-3 innings in a 10-4 loss. Upton had a two-run single in the third and his 12th homer in the fifth, a solo shot.

Yovani Gallardo (2-2) took the loss.

ROCKIES 5, GIANTS 4

DENVER (AP) — Nolan Arenado hit a two-out, two-run double off the wall in the ninth inning for Colorado. It was the second straight game the Rockies have won in walkoff fashion, with Justin Morneau hitting a two-run homer in the 10th against San Diego on Sunday.

The NL West-leading Giants took a 4-3 lead in the top of the ninth on an RBI double by Tyler Colvin against closer LaTroy Hawkins (2-0). Arenado hit a 2-2 pitch off closer Sergio Romo (3-1) that glanced off the top of the fence in left and bounced back into the outfield, easily scoring Troy Tulowitzki and then a hustling Carlos Gonzalez with the winning run.

CARDINALS 5, DIAMONDBACKS 0

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Adam Wainwright allowed one hit as the St. Louis Cardinals ended an eight-game home run drought with long balls from Matt Adams and Jhonny Peralta. Working on six days rest because of a rainout and day off, Wainwright (7-2) retired the first 11 batters before Paul Goldschmidt doubled off the wall in center with two outs in the fourth.



Atlanta Braves starting pitcher Julio Teheran delivers in the first inning of a baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

Peralta hit his team-leading ninth of the season in the sixth and added one of the Cardinals' five doubles for a second RBI against Bronson Arroyo (4-3). Arroyo had been 3-0 with an 0.39 ERA in May and hadn't allowed a homer his last four starts. Arroyo gave up five runs in seven innings.

NATIONALS 9, REDS 4

WASHINGTON (AP) — Denard Span was at his disrupt-

tive best, getting three hits off the major's top pitcher and forcing a pair of throwing errors to lead Washington over Cincinnati.

Span finished 5 for 5 with two runs, two doubles, two RBIs and a stolen base as the Nationals accomplished a first for 2014: They made Johnny Cueto (4-3) look mortal.

The Reds' ace allowed more than two runs, more

than five hits and failed to pitch at least seven innings — all for the first time this season.

The final line for Cueto: 5 1-3 innings, six hits, eight runs (six earned), six strikeouts. He also hit two batters in the same inning.

Doug Fister (1-1) worked seven innings and earned his first win for the Nationals.

PHILLIES 6, MARLINS 5

MIAMI (AP) — Jimmy Rollins homered for the second game in a row to put the Philadelphia ahead to stay.

The Phillies began the night ranked 26th in the majors in homers, but they've hit seven in the past three games — all wins — while scoring 26 runs.

A.J. Burnett (3-3), who pitched for the Marlins from 1999-2005, won his first start at Marlins Park despite struggling with his command. He walked four and needed 96 pitches to get through five innings.

The Phillies' Jonathan Papelbon gave up an RBI single by Garrett Jones in the ninth before notching his 12th save.

Anthony DeSclafani (1-1) allowed five runs in 5 1-3 innings for Miami.

DODGERS 9, METS 4

NEW YORK (AP) — Adrian Gonzalez homered again in his second consecutive three-hit game and Yasiel Puig reached base five times to lead Los Angeles. Josh Beckett (2-1) helped himself with an RBI single in his second straight victory after 14 winless starts.

But the fiery right-hander left frustrated after failing to get an out in the sixth inning.

Carl Crawford scored three times and stole two bases.

Gonzalez connected for a two-run shot in a four-run fifth, when Los Angeles chased Rafael Montero (0-2) from his second major league start.

Dodgers third baseman Juan Uribe limped off with an injury after his ninth-inning double. Puig, who had three hits and scored twice to extend his recent tear at the plate, delivered an RBI single during a three-run ninth.

INTERLEAGUE

CUBS 6, YANKEES 1

CHICAGO (AP) — Masahiro Tanaka had his regular-season unbeaten streaked broken at 42 starts, allowing a career-high four runs in six innings as last-place Chicago beat New York.

The Cubs honored the retiring Derek Jeter before the game, then handed Tanaka his first loss in nine major league starts.

Tanaka (6-1) had been 34-0 in Japan and North America the last two seasons. He did drop Game 6 of the Japan Series last year before earning the save in Game 7. He hadn't lost a regular-season game since the Seibu Lions beat the Rakuten Golden Eagles on Aug. 19, 2012.

Jason Hammel (5-2) pitched solid ball into the sixth and Hector Rondon retired Jeter on a grounder with the bases loaded in the ninth to end it.

ORIOLES 9, PIRATES 2

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Chris Davis hit three home runs, doubling his season total, and drove in five runs to lead Baltimore.

Davis hit a two-run blast during a four-run fifth inning that put the Orioles ahead 6-1 then hit a solo shot in the seventh and two-run homer in the ninth. It was Davis' second career three-homer game - the other came on Aug. 24, 2012 against Toronto - and seventh multi-homer game.

After leading the major leagues and setting a franchise record with 53 homers last season, Davis hit three in his first 30 games.

Miguel Gonzalez (2-3) pitched sixth innings for Baltimore.

Francisco Liriano (0-4) allowed six runs and nine hits in five innings for Pittsburgh. In other NL it was Washington 9, Cincinnati 4; L.A. Dodgers 9, N.Y. Mets 4; Atlanta 5, Milwaukee 0; Philadelphia 6, Miami 5; St. Louis 5, Arizona 0; and Colorado 5, San Francisco 4; 3. In Interleague play it was Chicago Cubs 6, N.Y. Yankees 1; Baltimore 9, Pittsburgh 2 and Minnesota 5, San Diego. □

Encarnacion hits 2 HRs for Blue Jays in 7-4 win

The Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Edwin Encarnacion hit a pair of two-run homers as the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Red Sox 7-4 on Tuesday, handing Boston its fifth straight loss.

Melky Cabrera and Erik Kratz also homered for the Blue Jays, who won their second straight and sixth in eight games.

J.A. Happ (3-1) struck out six in the first three innings and picked up his third win in four starts since joining the rotation. Jonny Gomes hit a two-run homer for Boston. The losing streak is the longest for the Red Sox since 2012.

Casey Janssen picked up his fourth save, getting Mike Napoli to ground into a double play and end it. Felix Doubront (2-4) left the game after Jose Reyes and Cabrera opened the fifth with back-to-back doubles.

ATHLETICS 3, RAYS 0
ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) — Drew Pomeranz won his third consecutive start since moving from the bullpen into the rotation and Coco Crisp drove in two runs before departing with an injury as the surging Oakland Athletics beat the Rays.

Pomeranz (4-1) allowed three hits, two walks and had three strikeouts over

five innings. He has not given up a run in his three starts, all of which lasted five innings. Crisp hit a two-run double and John Jaso had an RBI single off Jake Odorizzi (2-4) as Oakland took a 3-0 lead in the second. The AL West-leading Athletics have won 10 of 11, outscoring their opponents 74-18 over the stretch.

INDIANS 6, TIGERS 2

CLEVELAND (AP) — Trevor Bauer outpitched former Cy Young Award winner Justin Verlander and tamed Detroit's menacing lineup, leading the Indians to a win over the Tigers.

Bauer (1-1) was recalled earlier in the day for his second start this season, and the right-hander held the AL's top hitting team to just two runs and seven hits in six-plus innings.

Mike Aviles hit a two-run double in the second when the Indians scored four runs off Verlander (5-3), who didn't settle in until the damage was already done.

David Murphy homered in the seventh for last-place Cleveland.

MARINERS 6, RANGERS 2
ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Kyle Seager had three hits, including a two-run single that sparked a four-run third inning as the Mariners beat the Rangers.



Toronto Blue Jays' Edwin Encarnacion watches his two-run homer in the third inning of a baseball game against the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park in Boston, Tuesday, May 20, 2014.

Associated Press

Seager, a career .256 hitter in four seasons, is hitting .329 against the Rangers.

Robinson Cano, Dustin Ackley and recent call-up Nick Franklin added two hits each as the Mariners, last in the American League in hitting, had every member of the batting order reach base during the first four innings.

That backed the pitching of right-hander Hisashi Iwakuma (3-0), who allowed both runs and six hits through eight innings. Iwakuma had a streak of 17 consecutive scoreless innings end with a home run by Adrian Beltre leading off the second inning that made it 1-0.

WHITE SOX 7, ROYALS 6

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)

— Adam Dunn hit a three-run homer as the White Sox defeated the Royals.

Andre Rienzo (4-0) limited the Royals to two runs and five hits over six innings. He struck out a career-high eight.

The Royals' record dropped to 5-15 against American League Central opponents.

Gordon Beckham and Conor Gillaspie, who each had three hits, singled before Dunn homered in the eighth off right-hander Aaron Crow, who had allowed two three-run homers in his past two appearances.

Beckham has hit safely in 13 of his past 15 games, while Gillaspie increased his average to .347.

Royals rookie right-hander Yordano Ventura (2-4) took the loss, allowing four runs and seven hits, including a Tyler Flowers home run, in six innings.

ANGELS 9, ASTROS 3

ANAHEIM, California (AP) — David Freese had a season-high four RBIs after getting reinstated from the disabled list and Tyler Skaggs pitched seven solid innings as the Angels scored five unearned runs against Scott Feldman to beat the Astros.

Mike Trout had three RBIs in his second game of the season as a designated hitter, helping the Angels win for the ninth time in 12 games. □

Minneapolis awarded 2018 Super Bowl

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Minneapolis was awarded the 2018 Super Bowl by NFL owners on Tuesday.

The owners rewarded the Vikings for arranging to build a new stadium on the site of the old Metrodome by choosing Minneapolis over New Orleans and Indianapolis.

The big game will be staged in the Twin Cities for the second time. It was

there in 1992, when Washington beat Buffalo.

Minneapolis' new \$1 billion stadium is scheduled to open in 2016.

"In large part, it was due to recognition of the great work they've done on the stadium,"

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell noted.

New Orleans has staged the Super Bowl 10 times, equal with South Florida for the most.

Owners needed four bal-

lots to choose Minneapolis, with Indianapolis the first city eliminated. Indy was praised for a highly successful 2012 Super Bowl, but could have been hurt by the recent legal troubles of Colts owner Jim Irsay.

Irsay underwent treatment after he was arrested and accused of having \$29,000 in cash and bottles of prescription drugs in his car. He made his first public appearance at these meetings since the arrest. □



Minnesota Vikings owner Zygi Wilf speaks at a news conference after Minneapolis was selected as the host for 2018 Super Bowl at the NFL's spring meetings, Tuesday, May 20, 2014, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

Cholesterol, the Good and the Bad

In the past they would kill the messenger who delivered news that king did not want to hear. Tough job, fortunately, this doesn't happen today. Or does it? With the declaration of helping patients, doctors try to eliminate your body signs (messages) with drugs. When consulting an allopathic doctor the first thing investigated is to see if you have a disease. If not, they may test your blood and identify values that they think will cause a disease. With higher than normal cholesterol numbers, cholesterol lowering drugs are frequently prescribed. Is this the best thing to do? Could it be that the remedy may be worse than the disease?

Cholesterol lowering drugs, known as statins are proving to be killers. Documents indicate some senior executives of German pharmaceutical maker Bayer, knew its anti-cholesterol drug Baycol was causing illness and death long before pulling it off the market. It produces a side effect called rhabdomyolysis which causes severe pain and muscle weakness. Serious cases can shut down the kidneys and cause paralysis or death. During other drug studies, test patients have committed suicide. In fact, suicide is a stated possible risk from taking cholesterol lowering medicine. Why? Lipoproteins, which are attached to cholesterol, provide a means by which toxins including, heavy metals, solvent toxins, pesticides, and petro-chemicals can be removed from your brain and nerves. As cholesterol falls, less lipoproteins are available lowering your body's ability to remove these poi-

sons.

For natural physicians, cholesterol is not bad. Hydroxy sterols are found in both animal and plant life. Cholesterol, a complicated form of alcohol is the main sterol of higher life forms. With the exception of brain and red blood cells, all cells in your body are capable of synthesizing or producing cholesterol. Cholesterol provides strength for cell walls; a way to use other sterols and every day, cholesterol is converted into bile acid, which helps protect from and dissolve gallstones.

In your blood stream cholesterol contains lipoproteins. These proteins carry antioxidants such as vitamin E, beta carotene, and CoQ10 that help protect you from cancer. When cholesterol is naturally low or forced low with drugs, cancer risks rises because protection is reduced. When a clinical nutritionist sees a high test value for cholesterol we look to see what caused your body to increase cholesterol to help protect your brain and nerves. If fat-soluble poisons are present, changing what you do or don't eat can help remove these "bad fats." With the poison gone, cells stop making excess cholesterol for protection.

So what don't we eat? Don't eat sugar, especially alcohol or any of the growing number of products with high fructose corn syrup. Stop all fried, salty, refined or processed foods, fatty dairy products or fatty meats. When we tell patients this, many tell us we have just eliminated everything they eat. In fact we have just described the Standard American or Aru-

ban Diet (SAD).

Ok, what do we eat? Fresh fruits and vegetables, lean meats, but not pork, whole grains like brown rice oats or quinoa, a Peruvian supergrain. Wheat is not the best choice for many people because of allergies and gluten intolerance. Fish that swim constantly in deep water are loaded with "good" HDL cholesterol which is needed to manufacture some very wonderful hormones, like sex hormones. Medicinal oils packed with HDL include: olive, evening primrose, black currant, flax, safflower and soy. Herbs that lower LDL/triglycerides (bad cholesterol) are Shiitake mushrooms, cayenne, ginger, cat's claw, garlic and turmeric.

"Good cholesterol" producing foods which include essential fatty acids (EFA) rich in Omega 3, 6 and 9 in the correct proportions have changed with modern diets. Most of us are not getting enough Omega 3's and some of us are not getting enough of omega 3 and 6. Supplementing with Flax oil or Omega fish oils is more important than ever. Lecithin is good oil I consider a basic, especially for protecting the brain. Make sure you only use fish oils certified to be free of toxins like Mercury.

Eat smaller meals, especially before bed. While you sleep, the stomach also sleeps and food does not digest properly. Want to get all this under control quickly? Eat only brown rice for three weeks. Nothing else! Include lots of water and moderate exercise. It's always best to do a cleansing diet like this with the supervision of a clinical nutritionist.



Get the point! Not all cholesterol is bad. Cholesterol lowering drugs and their known side effects are not the only choice. We need good cholesterol to protect our brains and nerves. Changes in diet and lifestyle can naturally help control not only "bad" cholesterol, but you might find improvement with symptoms of high blood pressure, arthritis, and diabetes. Call us for a full evaluation of the good and the bad of your health. Let us teach you how to turn the "ugly" into "beautiful!"

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U.S. special forces may get 'Iron Man' suit

TAMARA LUSH
Associated Press

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — In the 2008 movie "Iron Man," the main character becomes a superhero after building a suit of armor with an exoskeleton that gives him incredible strength.

Today, elite U.S. special operations forces may be a few short years away from donning a similar suit, one that can monitor the user's vital signs, give him real-time battlefield information and be bulletproof from head to toe. The suit might eventually have other features unheard of only a few years ago, including an exoskeleton made of liquid armor, smart fabrics that could help stop hemorrhaging, enhanced sensory capabilities and Google Glass-like visuals.

The Tactical Assault Light Operator Suit (TALOS) project is coordinated through the Special Operations Command headquarters at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa. Prototypes are expected to be shown to military commanders in June, with hopes that the suit will be given to high-risk units in 2018.

While the project sounds like something out of a science fiction novel, its mission is simple, said James Geurts, the Deputy for Acquisition of the U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill.

"We've lost a lot of guys to gunshot wounds and explosions," he said. "If there's anything I can do

to more rapidly field technology, give better protection, better capability, any progress, I think we've done well."

Some companies working on the TALOS project are in Tampa, Florida, this week for the International Special Operations Forces conference. The four-day event showcases special military technologies, gadgets and tools — from pen-like systems collecting chemical vapors to underwater robots. Several top analysts and military brass are also scheduled to speak, including SOCOM commander, Adm. William McRaven.

McRaven is widely credited with initiating the TALOS project. Last year, he described SOCOM's unique approach to the project: By harnessing the expertise of professional engineers, the creativity of students and possibly even "local garage tinkerers," the military will end up with a truly innovative project.

"I am very committed to it because I'd like that last operator we lost to be the last one we ever lose in this fight or the fight of the future, and I think we can get there," McRaven said last July.

What might be more remarkable than the whiz-bang technology of the suit is how Geurts and his team are reaching out to recruit contractors in non-traditional ways.

SOCOM has held "Monster Garage"-type events for people with potential



In this May 20, 2014 photo, Michael Fieldson, the civilian project manager for the Tactical Assault Light Operator Suit at McDill Air Force Base, looks at sketches of the body armor exoskeleton during the Special Operations Forces Industry Conference in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

ideas, and even Geurts acknowledged: "It's certainly not the traditional Department of Defense model."

"Looking for #collaborators to help #invent the next generation of #sof combat gear via #talos @ SOFTALOS," Geurts tweeted in September.

Frost & Sullivan Aerospace and Defense Senior Industry Analyst Brad Curran said this approach is novel for the military.

The biggest current challenge is making the suit light and comfortable for the soldier.

"For every pound the operator has to carry in armor, there's an additional energy supply," said Dan Stamm, a research scientist at Battelle, an Ohio-based defense contractor that's the lead con-

tracting consultant on the TALOS project.

Dan Rini, president of Rini Tech in Orlando, is one of the contractors on the project. His company has made a "personal thermal protection system" for the military that runs off a 3 1/2-pound battery and uses cold water and tubes to keep people cool.

Rini said he's trying to adapt that invention to the TALOS suit.

"We don't want that person inside the suit to get overcome by heat stress," Rini said. "He might have to be in it for a long time."

Michael Fieldson, the civilian TALOS project manager, said the battery pack

for the cooling system and the exoskeleton present the biggest weight hurdles.

"Nature did a pretty good job of designing the human body and we're trying to mimic that," said Fieldson. "Hollywood did a pretty good job of showing us what Iron Man could do on the screen, and the system may do some of those things — but we're not planning on flying."

Whether the suit is adopted by special operations forces, even in part, will remain to be seen, said Curran. He suggested that partial exoskeletons to help ease the strain on soldier's knees would be likely used first. □

Germany clamps down on exports of spy tech

BERLIN (AP) — Germany says it will restrict exports of surveillance technology to states that fail to respect their citizens' human rights.

Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel says the move is designed to prevent spy software 'Made in Germany' from being used for internal repression by au-

tocratic regimes. Amnesty International and Reporters Without Borders welcomed the decision. Rights groups have in the past accused German companies of selling spy software to countries such as Bahrain and Uzbekistan, where the technology is allegedly used to monitor dissidents and journalists.

Gabriel said in a statement Tuesday that he wants all 28 European Union countries to agree on common standards for the export of surveillance technology. In the meantime, Germany will block exports on a case-by-case basis. Gabriel's office declined to reveal which countries would be affected. □

Spotify jumps to 10 million paying subscribers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Music streaming giant Spotify says it now has 10 million paying subscribers worldwide.

That's up from 6 million in March of last year. It also said it has more than 40 million active users, up from 24 million.

Although the company wouldn't say where the growth is coming from, its international expansion has been quick, expanding from 20 markets to 56 in

the last year. CEO Daniel Ek said in a statement that Spotify is widening its lead in digital music.

Spotify, launched in Sweden in 2008, expanded to the U.S. in July 2011.

It offers millions of tracks for on-demand streaming to mobile devices and computers for upward of \$5 a month. It also has a free tier that comes with ads but doesn't allow specific track selection. □

Stocks recover; Dow sees five-week-high gains

ALEX VEIGA

AP Business Writer

Major U.S. stock indexes mounted a solid comeback Wednesday, recovering their losses from the prior day and finishing on track for a weekly gain. It was the Dow Jones industrial average's biggest gain in five weeks.

In the absence of any major new economic data, investors focused on companies reporting quarterly earnings or otherwise garnering headlines.

Tiffany & Co. was a favorite early on, vaulting more than 9 percent on a sharp increase in earnings and revenue. Traders also cheered news of Netflix's plans to make a deeper foray into Europe, sending the Internet video service's shares up 5 percent.

Investors got a closer look at discussions held by the Federal Reserve's policymakers in their most recent meeting last month. Wall Street's reaction was muted, however, and the market kept on the upward trajectory it set upon early on.

U.S. index futures rose before the opening of regular stock trading. The market opened higher and stayed in positive territory throughout the day.

Major indexes have finished higher three of the last four trading days.

"Since there was no real solid news to continue into a two-day sell-off, we're

getting a little bit of a bounce today," said Joe Peta, a managing director of Novus.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 15.20 points, or 0.8 percent, to close at 1,888.03. The index is up 2.2 percent for the year.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 158.75 points,

Bond prices fell, driving the yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note up to 2.54 percent from 2.51 percent late Tuesday.

All 10 industry sectors in the S&P 500 rose, led by consumer discretionary and energy stocks.

The stock market has fluctuated between gains and

day to another nearly 60 percent of the time so far this year, something not seen since 2008 during the financial crisis, Peta said.

"It is a schizophrenic market that doesn't seem to have much of a memory from one day to the next," he said.

The Fed meeting minutes



Trader Ryan Falvey, left, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Major U.S. stock indexes mounted a solid comeback Wednesday, recovering their losses from the prior day and finishing on track for a weekly gain.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

or nearly 1 percent, to end at 16,533.06. The Nasdaq composite index added 34.65 points, or 0.9 percent, to finish at 4,131.54.

The Dow and Nasdaq remain down for 2014.

Small-company stocks also rebounded. The Russell 2000 index rose 5.73 points, or 0.5 percent, to 1,103.63.

losses on an almost daily basis as investors try to get a better handle on the trajectory of the economy following a weak start to the year.

That pattern continued even after the S&P 500 hit a high early last week.

In all, the market has changed course from one

released Wednesday shed little new light on a key question for many investors: When will the Fed start raising interest rates?

Fed officials discussed how to unwind the support the central bank has given the economy once they decide to begin raising the Fed's key short-term rate. □

EBay suggests new passwords after breach

MAE ANDERSON

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — E-commerce site eBay is asking users to change their password after a cyberattack compromised a database containing encrypted passwords.

The company says there is no evidence of any unauthorized activity and no evidence any financial or credit card information was stolen.

EBay says its investigation is active and it can't comment on the specific number of accounts affected, but says the number could be large, so it is asking all users to change their passwords. eBay had 145 million active users at the end of the first quarter.

Cyberattackers stole a small number of employee log-in credentials that gave access to eBay's corporate network, the company said. The San Jose, California-based company is working with law enforcement to investigate the attack.

The database was hacked sometime between late February and early March, but compromised employee log-in credentials were first detected two weeks ago.

EBay owns electronic payment service PayPal, but eBay says there is no evidence PayPal information was hacked, since that information is stored separately on a secure network.

The attack follows several other high-profile hacking incidents, including a massive data breach at Target stores and the spread of the computer security flaw nicknamed "Heartbleed." Heartbleed took advantage of a flaw in a key piece of security technology used by more than 500,000 websites that had been exposing online passwords and other sensitive data to potential theft for more than two years.

And during the Target credit data breach last year, hackers stole about 40 million debit and credit card numbers and personal information for 70 million people.

Shares of eBay Inc. fell 31 cents to \$51.65 in morning trading. □

Netflix coming to Germany, France, 4 other markets

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Netflix will expand into Germany, France and four other European countries later this year as the Internet video service tries to build an international following that might eventually surpass its U.S. audience.

The additional markets announced Wednesday will extend Netflix's reach into nearly 50 countries, including 13 in Europe. Besides Germany and France, the latest countries on Netflix's list are Switzerland, Austria, Belgium and Luxembourg.

The Los Gatos, California, company entered Europe in 2012 when its Internet video service debuted in the U.K. and Ireland.

Earlier this year, Netflix Inc. disclosed its plans to sell its service in more European countries without identifying where they would be. The company still isn't saying which month its service will be available in the new markets or how much it will cost. Netflix recently raised its Internet streaming prices for new customers by about \$1 per month around the world. With the increase, Netflix charges \$9 per month for unlimited

video streaming in the U.S. The company froze rates at \$8 per month for two years for subscribers before the May 9 increase.

Netflix ended March with 35.7 million U.S. subscribers and an additional 12.7 million customers in the rest of the world. The company has set a long-term goal of 60 million to 90 million U.S. subscribers and more than 100 million internationally. The overseas push has been costly so far for Netflix, which has amassed international losses exceeding \$800 million since it ventured outside the U.S. for the first time in 2010.

The company's U.S. operations, including a steadily shrinking DVD-by-mail service, have continued to churn out profits that so far have more than offset the international losses.

Last year, for instance, Netflix earned \$112 million despite sustaining \$274 million in international losses. Netflix expects to start eking out a profit in its existing overseas markets by the end of this year.

Its shares rose \$9.72, or 2.6 percent, to \$381.39 in midday trading Wednesday. Its shares have risen about 1 percent so far this year. □

Tiffany's net income spiked 50% in first quarter

MAE ANDERSON

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Tiffany & Co.'s net income spiked 50 percent in the first quarter as worldwide sales jumped by double digits and the company boosted prices. Results beat expectations and the jeweler raised its earnings guidance for the year, sending shares up nearly 9 percent in early trading Wednesday.

"This is an excellent and encouraging start to the year," said CEO Michael Kowalski.

Tiffany, known for its iconic turquoise gift boxes, reported that net income

rose to \$125.6 million, or 97 cents per share during the three months ended April 30. That handily beat the 78 cents per share Wall Street was looking for and is up from \$83.6 million, or 65 cents per share, last year. Valentine's Day was a boost during the month, Mark Aaron, Tiffany vice president of investor relations, said in a call with analysts.

"Despite snowstorms that affected a number of our stores in the eastern U.S., we enjoyed very good Valentine's Day results," Aaron said.

Revenue climbed 13 per-

cent to \$1.01 billion from \$885.5 million. Analysts expected \$953.7 million.

Revenue rose 8 percent to \$439 million in the Americas, Tiffany's largest market. Revenue rose 17 percent in the Asia Pacific region, 20 percent in Japan and 9 percent in Europe. Revenue in stores open at least a year, a key retail metric, rose 11 percent globally and 8 percent in the U.S.

Stifel Nicolaus analyst David Schick said results were "impressive," especially considering that more new jewelry designs are due in the second half of the year.

He added that the results seem to show that President Frederic Cumenal, who joined the company last fall, is helping business with "new energy and ideas for the business."

Tiffany now expects full-year net income of \$4.15 to \$4.25 per share, up from \$4.05 to \$4.15 per share previously. Analysts had been projecting \$4.19 per share.

The company expects revenue to rise in the high single digit percentage range.

In a call with analysts, new CFO Ralph Nicoletti said the company expects

net income in the second quarter to be even with last year, due to uncertainty about when sales growth will resume in Japan and economic uncertainty in Europe.

That implies net income of about 83 cents per share. Analysts expect 92 cents per share.

Shares of Tiffany rose \$7.53, or 8.5 percent, to \$95.76 in early trading. While the stock is down about 5 percent since the beginning of the year, it's within striking distance of an all-time high and is up more than 12 percent over the past 52 weeks. □

Lowe's 1Q results rise, but miss expectations



This photo shows a Lowe's store in Philadelphia. Lowe's Cos. reported mixed quarterly earnings on Wednesday, May 21, 2014.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

MOORESVILLE, N.C. (AP) — Home-improvement retailer Lowe's fiscal first-quarter net income climbed 16 percent, bolstered in part by a lower tax rate.

But its revenue and its profit adjusted to exclude the

effect of one-time items missed analysts' estimates as poor weather kept customers from stores during the beginning of the key spring selling season.

Nonetheless, the company raised its full-year earnings

forecast on Wednesday. Spring is the most important season for home improvement retailers as Americans start spending more on outdoor projects. But a wet and cold spring has put a damper on shoppers

starting on yard and garden products. On Tuesday Lowe's larger rival Home Depot Inc. also said bad weather hurt its first-quarter results.

"We executed well during the quarter, despite an unexpectedly prolonged winter in many areas of the country," Lowe's CEO Robert Niblock said.

Niblock said in a statement that unfavorable weather conditions lowered traffic and hurt the sales of products in its exterior categories — like patio and gardening goods. But he added that results for indoor categories — such as plumbing parts and indoor paints — were solid.

Niblock also said that results have gotten better in May.

Lowe's shares fell 27 cents to \$45.25 in midday trading. The stock is down about 8 percent since the beginning of the year.

For the three months ended May 2, Lowe's Cos. earned \$624 million, or 61 cents per share. A year ago the Mooresville, North Carolina, company earned \$540 million, or 49 cents per share.

The lower tax rate added 4 cents per share to the latest quarter's earnings, while asset impairment charges reduced earnings by 1 cent.

Excluding these items, earnings were 58 cents per share.

Analysts polled by FactSet forecast earnings of 60 cents per share.

Revenue rose 2 percent to \$13.4 billion from \$13.09 billion, but still fell short of Wall Street's prediction of \$13.89 billion. Going forward, Lowe's now sees fiscal 2014 earnings of about \$2.63 per share. Its prior guidance was for earnings of about \$2.60 per share. Revenue is still expected to rise by approximately 5 percent. □

Another AstraZeneca shareholder voices criticism

LONDON (AP) — Another AstraZeneca shareholder has criticized the pharmaceutical company's handling of Pfizer's \$119 billion takeover bid, saying Wednesday it was "arguably wrong" to reject it so quickly.

Pfizer Inc. this week raised its stock-and-cash offer for a third time this year, to 55

pounds (\$93) per share. But AstraZeneca rejected the bid just hours later, saying it undervalued the company, which has promising new drugs in the pipeline. Since then, some shareholders have said AstraZeneca was too quick to shoot down the bid, which Pfizer has said would not be raised again. The \$119 bil-

lion deal would be the richest acquisition ever among drug makers and the third-biggest in any industry.

"We believe that the board was arguably wrong and acted too hastily to dismiss the latest proposal from Pfizer," said Jim Stride, the director of UK equities for AXA Investment Managers UK, on Wednesday. AXA

Investment Managers UK holds just under 1 percent of AstraZeneca's stock.

Stride said AstraZeneca's board "should not prevent an offer" from being put to the company's shareholders. Though it has said its indicative offer is final, Pfizer has until 5 p.m. local time on May 26 to make a formal bid under U.K.

law. If it doesn't, it cannot make another offer for six months. Pfizer has said it will not mount a hostile takeover bid. Other institutional shareholders including Schroders, which holds a 2 percent stake, and Jupiter Fund Management, which holds 0.6 percent, have also expressed disappointment with the decision. □

Mutts



Conceptis Sudoku

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9				4
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7	1	6		

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Difficulty Level ★★★

5/22

6 Chix



Blondie



Yesterday's puzzle answer

9	1	5	2	3	4	6	7	8
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6	5	4	3	1	8	9	2	7
1	2	9	5	4	7	8	3	6

Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



ACROSS

- 1 Siesta
- 4 Looks at flirtatiously
- 9 Pier
- 13 Out of town
- 15 Rows and rows of fruit trees
- 16 Wheel rod
- 17 Autry or Kelly
- 18 Metal bolt
- 19 Cruel
- 20 Monthly mailing from the bank
- 22 Jillian & Curry
- 23 Like pink cheeks
- 24 Pounds: abbr.
- 26 Trees & flowers
- 29 Grotesque
- 34 Animal pelts
- 35 Listened to
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- 37 Enthusiastic
- 38 Camel features
- 39 Long narrative
- 40 Observe
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Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

5/22/14

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

I	F	F	Y	C	E	S	A	R	S	C	A
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5/22/14

- 5 Sullied with grease & dirt
- 6 Zero, in tennis
- 7 Get ; take revenge
- 8 Homesteaders
- 9 Lustrous jacquard fabric
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'Happy' video arrests highlight tensions in Iran

ALI AKBAR DAREINI
ADAM SCHRECK
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — An Internet video of six young Iranian men and women dancing to Pharrell Williams' "Happy" has led to their arrests, showing how far Tehran will go to halt what it deems to be decadent Western behavior — despite the views of its moderate president. Criticism outside Iran was predictably swift Wednesday, with calls for freedom for the jailed youths zipping around social media. Williams tweeted: "It's beyond sad these kids were arrested for trying to spread happiness."

A tweet posted Wednesday evening on President Hassan Rouhani's account seemed to address the controversy, even if it stopped short of mentioning the video or the arrests directly.

"#Happiness is our people's right," it said. "We shouldn't be too hard on behaviors caused by joy." The widely followed account appears to reflect Rouhani's positions. Iranian media in the past quoted Rouhani as saying the account is authentic. At the same time, a senior Rouhani adviser said last year that the president had such an account only during the presidential campaign and that Rouhani's views are represented by his official website.

Other social media posts suggested at least some of the dancers had already been released, although there was no independent confirmation from authorities.

The case was another reminder of the tensions that exist at the highest levels of Iranian power, with hard-liners determined to maintain the status quo while

moderates try to push through change — be it improved relations with the West or a loosening of morality clampdowns at home. Hard-liners are increasingly challenging Rouhani as the country negotiates a nuclear deal with world powers. The president campaigned for greater cultural and social freedoms in his bid to succeed Mahmoud Ahmadinejad last year.

As recently as Saturday, he articulated a moderate stance about the Internet, which remains tightly regulated by Iranian authorities. Sites such as YouTube and Facebook are blocked by censors, though many young and Web-savvy Iranians use proxy servers or other workarounds to bypass the controls. □

"We should see the cyber-world as an opportunity," said Rouhani, according to the official IRNA news agency. "Why are we so shaky? Why don't we trust our youth?" Hard-liners accuse Rouhani of failing to stop the spread of what they deem "decadent" Western culture in Iran. Last week, hard-liners marched over women not wearing hijabs and dressing provocatively. While Rouhani pursues a policy of social and cultural openness, hard-liners say the government should be tough to those who challenge interpretations of Islamic norms. They accuse Rouhani of showing leniency and too much tolerance toward those who question Islamic sanctities or women who are not sufficiently veiled. □

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Huge femur in Argentina could be biggest dino yet



In this January 2014 photo released on Saturday, May 17, 2014 by the Museo Paleontológico Egidio Feruglio, Spanish paleontologist Jose Ignacio Canudo lies alongside a sauropod dinosaur femur, believed to be the largest in the world, in Trelew, Argentina.

Associated Press

MICHAEL WARREN

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)

— Scientists in Argentina have uncovered what could be the largest dinosaur yet discovered — a long-necked titanosaur as tall as a six-story building, whose thigh bone alone dwarfs a fully grown man. It will take years of work for researchers to uncover the entire skeleton, and they'll need a new museum once they put it together. Pale-

ontologists say the titanosaur could have stretched 66 feet (20 meters) tall and 132 feet (40 meters) long, weighing the equivalent of 14 or 15 adult African elephants.

"Given the length and magnitude this animal will bring along when it's reconstructed, there won't be a building that can contain it. I think we're going to need a new home," said Ruben Cuneo, who directs the Egidio Feruglio dinosaur

museum in the Patagonian city of Trelew in southern Argentina, which is sponsoring the dig.

Sauropods were long-necked, whip-tailed gigantic plant-eaters that roamed the Earth more than 90 million years ago. Other experts agreed that this find is a previously undiscovered species and that it was at least as big as the Argentinosaurus, which had been thought to set the record for size.

But what's known about Argentinosaurus anatomy is mostly based on an incomplete thigh-bone found in 1991, also in Argentina's fossil-rich Patagonia region. This time, paleontologists think they'll be able to un-

earth a much more complete fossil.

Already, the complete thigh bone they've uncovered is at 7.9 feet (2.4 meters) the longest of any vertebrate yet found, said paleontologist Jose Luis Carballido, who is leading the research team.

A volumetric estimate based on the femur and humerus they've uncovered suggests the animal weighed around 176,000 pounds (80,000 kilograms), he said.

"Based on what is known of the animal, it was certainly very, very large," agreed paleontologist John Whitlock of Mount Aloysius College in Pennsylvania.

"Just how large may have

to wait for more fossils and will probably depend on the method used to estimate its total size — we've seen how much estimates of mass can change for fragmentary animals like Argentinosaurus — but right now it would certainly seem to be a strong contender for largest known sauropod," Whitlock said.

Paleobiologist Paul Upchurch of University College London believes size estimates are more reliable when extrapolated from the circumference of bones. He said this femur is a whopping 43.3 inches (1.1 meter) around, about the same as the Argentinosaurus' thigh bone.

"Whether or not the new animal really will be the largest sauropod we know remains to be seen," said Upchurch, who wasn't involved in this discovery but has seen the bones firsthand.

"Certainly the new animal appears to be at least as large as Argentinosaurus, and is a new species," Upchurch added. "Its real scientific value comes from the fact that it looks like this new form will be more complete than Argentinosaurus, so we'll get a better look at the anatomy of one of these super giants."

The bones were spotted years ago by a worker at a ranch outside the town of Las Plumas in Patagonia's Rio Chubut valley, and Carballido's team from the museum began digging in January 2013.

"What they discovered is a cemetery of dinosaurs the likes of which we had never seen in the history of Argentine paleontology," Cuneo said. □

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Logo network to honor gay rights leaders

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Logo network next month will launch what it hopes will become an annual televised event saluting pioneers in the gay rights movement, with the woman who challenged the federal Defense of Marriage act as the first honoree.

"Trailblazers" will air June 26, a year after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a provision denying federal benefits to legally married same-sex couples. Edie Windsor brought the case to the courts after getting a \$363,000 federal tax bill following her partner's death.

Logo will tape the show a few days in advance from Manhattan's Cathedral of St. John the Divine, one of the first churches in New York to offer same-sex weddings. Besides Windsor, Logo will also honor her lawyer, Roberta Kaplan. Logo will feature three or four more honorees, some from the world of entertainment, said Stephen Friedman, network president, on Wednesday. Those names will be announced later. The group A Great Big World and others will perform, he said.

"We want it to be both honoring the trailblazers and a night of great enter-

tainment," Friedman said. Friedman is also president of MTV, Logo's sister network at Viacom Inc. Like other networks, MTV is well aware of the power of big events to drive viewership; the MTV Video Music Awards is frequently its most popular telecast of the year. Logo, with a programming lineup aimed at gays and lesbians, hopes that "Trailblazers" can be a similar signature moment for its audience.

Besides the Supreme Court decision, the last week of June marks the anniversary of riots at the Stonewall bar in New York City in 1969, the event that launched the gay rights movement.

Conducting research on its viewers, Logo found that many lacked but craved a sense of history, Friedman said. "They said we don't have a sense of the leaders from the past, the Rosa Parks, the Dr. (Martin Luther) King, the Rep. (John) Lewis — the people upon whose shoulders we stand," he said. "There's no one talking about these pioneers." He said that "it felt like there was a real opportunity for us and our audience." The show will also feature appearances by Jared Leto, Kylie Minogue, Ariana Grande, Rita Ora, Iggy Azalea, Mary Lambert and Tyler Glenn of Neon Trees. □

Emily Giffin branches out with 'The One & Only'

ALICIA RANCILIO
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Emily Giffin's specialty is writing about relationships, especially when they are messy and complicated. In her best-sellers, including "Something Borrowed," "Something Blue" and "Baby Proof," she has tackled themes such as betrayal, adultery and heartbreak while keeping her characters relatable, albeit flawed. Her latest novel, "The One

& Only," is also about relationships, but it is longer — and at times darker — than her earlier books. The story follows 33-year-old Shea Rigsby, a small-town Texan who lives for football, especially college football. She works for the local university, which has a strong football team that is coached by Clive Carr, the father of Shea's best friend Lucy. Shea, whose parents are divorced, found stability

AP INTERVIEW: Leno says he's enjoying retirement

ARON HELLER
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — After two decades of hosting "The Tonight Show," Jay Leno says his transition into retirement has been seamless.

Without the daily grind of hosting NBC's popular late-night show, Leno said he feels "liberated" to travel and invest more in his standup routines.

"Write joke. Tell joke. Get check. It's pretty simple. It's not a hard plan," he joked in an interview with The Associated Press.

This week he made his first trip to Israel, where he will host an award ceremony Thursday honoring former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg for his philanthropic efforts.

Leno is to perform in front of Bloomberg, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other dignitaries at the first Genesis Prize ceremony in Jerusalem. Leno said both men would be fair game for playful jokes.

The 64-year-old Leno retired in February and was replaced by former "Saturday Night Live" star Jimmy Fallon.

"He's a great friend of mine and I think he is doing a terrific job," Leno said Wednesday. "At some point you realize it is time to step down ... I'm having a good time now."

Leno said the best part was not having the burden of

preparing for the show every day.

"You don't have to watch 'Noah' and all these other films, these kinds of kid movies. You get to a certain age where 'OK, I'm over the superhero thing,'" he said. "I don't have to do that anymore so that's fantastic!"

Leno said he had no plans to be overly politically active and said he was just "doing what is right." Regardless, he said there was no way any of his convictions would find their way into his acts.

"That's the first rule of comedy: You don't put your cause ahead of the joke."



American comedian Jay Leno reacts during an interview with the Associated Press in Jerusalem, Wednesday, May 21, 2014.

Associated Press

He said he'd gladly be a guest on Fallon's show at some point but was not itching to get back into TV yet.

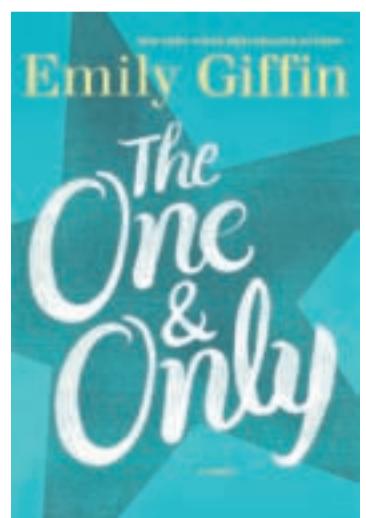
"I have no problem doing that, but I think that once you leave you've got to let the ground lay fallow for a while," he said.

Along with his wife, Mavis, Leno has been one of the leaders of a growing boycott of the Beverly Hills Hotel, protesting the harsh new Islamic laws imposed by the sultan of the Southeast Asia nation of Brunei — who owns the hotel.

People come to see you to be entertained, to have a laugh," he said.

But Leno, who also recently performed in China, London and Rome, had no problem professing his admiration for Israel at a time when pro-Palestinian activists have been urging entertainers to boycott the Jewish state.

"I'm a huge supporter of Israel and always have been," he said. "It is a democracy in the Middle East and I don't like to see the little guy getting picked on by the big guy." □



This book cover image released by Ballantine shows "The One & Only," by Emily Giffin. Associated Press

Opinionated Don Lemon breaking out at CNN

DAVID BAUDER**AP Television Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — CNN's Don Lemon braced himself after being recognized by a viewer on a Harlem street.

"I don't always agree with you," the person began, ominously. "But keep it up. I'm not always supposed to agree with you."

Lemon could think of no sweeter compliment. The 48-year-old news anchor has attracted attention by adding his opinion to stories he's telling. His bosses are rewarding him with more airtime, and his visibility has increased this spring through coverage of the missing Malaysia Airlines plane and other stories. He frequently hosts the 10 p.m. EDT news hour.

His decision to speak out traces directly to coming out publicly as gay in a memoir published three years ago.

Last week while moderating a discussion with four women on the firing of New York Times executive editor Jill Abramson, Lemon said he didn't believe in equal pay for equal work in all circumstances — the verbal equivalent of sticking his head in a lion's mouth. He denounced Florida's "stand your ground" law in coverage of a trial involving it. He offered troubled



In this undated image released by CNN, CNN anchor Don Lemon is shown. The 48-year-old news anchor has attracted attention by adding his opinion to stories he's telling.

Associated Press

pop star Chris Brown advice "from one black man to another" in a segment on Tom Joyner's radio show.

No incident attracted more attention than when Lemon said he agreed with some criticism of blacks by Fox News' Bill O'Reilly. Young black men should think about pulling up their pants, staying in school, not using the n-word, not having children out of wedlock

and taking interest in their communities, Lemon said. That provoked a response from entrepreneur Russell Simmons, who wrote an open letter saying, "I can't accept that you would single out black teenagers as the cause of their own demise because they don't speak the King's English or wear belts around their waistbands." Lemon said he knew that he would get a reaction,

and that it was important to start a conversation.

"What surprised me was how many people would be taking it out of context and trying to turn it into something that it was not, that it was a criticism of African-Americans to tell them how to act, that it had something to do with racism," he said. "That had nothing to do with racism. That was self-empowerment."

Too often, he said, people think all blacks should feel the same way about issues and criticize any deviation, "which to me is the dumbest thing I've ever heard." There's some concern Lemon is reacting to symptoms rather than the causes of problems in the black community, said Eric Deggans, author of "Race Baiter: How the Media Wields Dangerous Words to Divide a Nation."

"I've always felt that Don was an underappreciated anchor, and was afraid that he'd be another one of those black anchors at CNN who hasn't seemed to stick around," Deggans said. "I'm really glad that CNN values him enough to put him in prime time because I think it's important." CNN has no problem with Lemon's opinions, so long as he's not predictably partisan. Janelle Rodriguez, vice president of programming at CNN U.S., said Lemon talks to viewers instead of talking down to them.

"Having a personality is a positive attribute," Rodriguez said.

Lemon had contracted to write a self-help book a few years ago and the subject even bored him. He turned it into a memoir, including the revelation he is gay. He wasn't sure he would include that fact before sending his manuscript to CNN's standards and practices department for review. His company didn't try to stop him, only warned him to be prepared for the attention.

He worried openly at the time whether it would hurt his career. It hasn't been much of an issue, although when Lemon criticized Rush Limbaugh for being a "stunt king" for comments the radio commentator made about Donald Sterling, Limbaugh made sure his rebuttal included the fact that Lemon "sleeps with men, proudly."

Talking openly about his sexuality and being abused as a child has made him free to put more of himself into his work, Lemon said.

"For me, personally, it's been empowering," he said, "and I can't go back." □

Stallone, Karl share feelings on playing Rocky



In this Oct. 16, 2013 file photo, Sylvester Stallone, left, who played Rocky Balboa in the 1976 film "Rocky," poses with Andy Karl, who plays Rocky Balboa in the Broadway musical "Rocky," in New York.

Associated Press

Karl shared the onstage boxing ring at the Winter Theater hours before a recent show. Stallone spoke proudly of

the character he created more than 40 years ago and how Karl has taken the legacy to new levels with the current Broadway show based on the film.

Back in the early 1970s, a nearly destitute Stallone wrote the screenplay and bargained for the starring role. The actor-writer gave the underdog hero his own values and the journey ended with "Rocky" winning the best picture Oscar in 1977. "The only difference between me and Rocky is that I wasn't a boxer. In other words, all the feelings, those were all real. That's my philosophy on life. Those are my ideals and they still hold true today," Stallone said.

Instead of the relying on the unbelievable feat of coming out of nowhere to win a heavyweight title, the story depicted the more realistic approach of getting a chance and making the most of it. For Rocky, it was just about going the distance.

"That's all it is. I know that I'm not the best actor. I know I can never be the best, but I can be as good as I can be. And that's what the movie is about," Stallone said. "I just want to be standing up. That, to me, is my world championship."

The 67-year old feels the story is in good hands with Karl. And so does the Broadway community: Karl was

nominated for a best actor Tony. Stallone said Karl has nicely avoided making the character "like a 'Saturday Night Live' sketch."

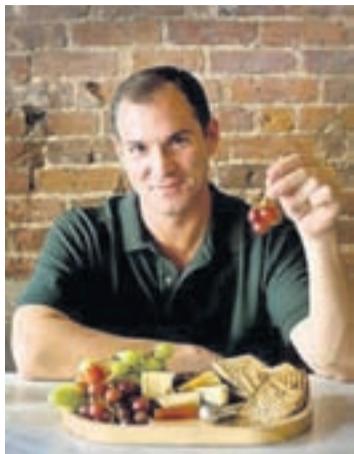
"You can't just sing, you have to be the physical type. You have to be coordinated. You have to be willing to take a beating every night. Then you have to go through the whole thing of, 'Are you imitating or a cliche of the original?'" Stallone said.

For Karl, it was important to honor the honesty of the character, and not try to imitate the film. Winning a Tony isn't his goal. "At the end of the day, I'm like if I win, who cares? I feel like I won here already," he said. □

JOHN CARUCCI
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — It was a tale of two Rockys when Sylvester Stallone and Andy

Hillary's Obstacle Course



FRANK BRUNI
© 2014 New York Times

Reince Priebus made a joke on Sunday.

I don't know that he meant to - comedy isn't his forte - but the only way to hear one of his comments on "Meet the Press" was as a put-on. He said that Hillary Clinton wouldn't run for the presidency if "she has another month like she just had," with questions about Monica, about Benghazi, about Boko Haram, about her brain.

I almost fell down. For one thing, she's had countless months like that.

For another, they're the only kind on the horizon: Hillary as the fodder for the morning talk shows (on Sunday's panels, she came up 98 times, according to a Washington Post tally) and Hillary as a piñata for late-night comedians; strenuously marketed Hillary scandals with a modicum of merit and strenuously marketed Hillary scandals with none.

If Republicans believed in global warming, they'd surely divine her hand in it. Speaking of body parts, I suspect we'll move from

Hillary's brain to her heart, probably her liver, possibly her pancreas and maybe even her pinkie toe. What Hillary goes through in the public arena isn't an examination. It's a vivisection.

That she endures it is admirable. That she's so willing to is scary. With all politicians, you worry about the intensity of the hunger that enables them to suffer the snows of Iowa and the slings and arrows of outrageous pundits. With Hillary and Bill, you worry that it's rapaciousness beyond bounds.

You also grow weary. The Clintons are exhausting. And that's just one of many drawbacks worth discussing as Hillary plays Hamlet, mulling what to do. She's without doubt the contender to bet on. But she's a contender with baggage and obstacles that get woefully short shrift in all the nonstop chatter about her inevitability.

For starters, Americans have been in a pessimistic mood for an unusually sustained period, their faith in the political system at rock bottom. How does someone who's been front and center in that system for more than two decades - who's a symbol of intense partisan warfare - become the voice of change? There's no "Don't Stop (Thinking About Tomorrow)" for Hillary. Tomorrow was yesterday.

Remarks she made in Washington on Friday illustrated that point. At a conference titled "Big Ideas for a New America," she mused about what "the 1990s taught us," looking into the future by traveling into the past, which isn't the terrain on which presidential elections are typically won.

Bill traveled there just two and a half weeks earlier, in a speech of his own at Georgetown University. "Speech" is too paltry a word; this was one of those ego extravaganzas, like his aria at the Democratic National Convention, that went on and on and reaffirmed his talent for making everything, including the current income-inequality debate, about him.

In this case he was singing the praises of his own presidency's economic record.

He was also serving notice that despite his screw-ups during Hillary's 2008 campaign, it may be impossible to muzzle him in 2016. Just last week, on yet another stage, he again joined the fray, proclaiming Hillary blameless for Benghazi and vouching that her concussion was merely that.

There's a thin line between chivalry and butting in. Can he stay on the right side of it? If not, he could hurt her candidacy, overshadowing her and undercutting her feminist story line.

She has additional challenges.

If Obama's approval rating

doesn't rise, his would-be successors will be best served by breaking with him. For Hillary that's hard. Given her history on health insurance, she can't run against the Affordable Care Act. Given her role in his administration, she can't run against his foreign policy.

How does she simultaneously defend and defy him? It's a balancing act that Al Gore never perfected in regard to her husband.

The past month has indeed been instructive, demonstrating how practiced Republicans are at attacking her - and how exuberant they are about it. I think they want her to run. She's the devil they know. She's the dragon worth slaying.

She's considered inevitable in part because she's political royalty, awash in money and celebrity endorsements, but is royalty what an economically frustrated, embittered electorate wants? With fame of her duration and magnitude, how does she find a common touch?

And how does she show us anything that she hasn't shown us before, introducing or even reintroducing herself?

Maybe any sense of staleness will be expunged by the prospect of a first female president, but she lacks an opportunity that many successful presidential candidates enjoyed: that period of the rollout when a more detailed biography emerges, a personality is defined and voters get a chance to swoon.

We can't fall in love that way with Hillary, not at this point. We're too far past the roses and Champagne. □



Poverty Is Not a State of Mind



CHARLES M. BLOW
© 2014 New York Times

Paul Ryan and Jeb Bush, the didactic-meets-dynastic duo, spoke last week at a Manhattan Institute gathering, providing a Mayberry-like prescription for combating poverty in this country: all it takes is more friendship and traditional marriage.

Ryan said: "The best way to turn from a vicious cycle of despair and learned helplessness to a virtuous cycle of hope and flourishing is by embracing the attributes of friendship, accountability and love."

Lovely, Mr. Ryan. Really, I'm touched. But as every poor person in America will tell you, you can't use friendship tokens to pay the electricity bill, and you can't simply hug the cashier and walk away with groceries.

Furthermore, the statement makes a basic and demeaning assumption about the poor: that they suffer a deficiency of friendship, accountability and loving relationships.

That, sir, has not been my experience. Poverty is demonstrative not of a lack of character, but a lack of cash.

For Bush's part, he said: "A loving family taking care of their children in a traditional marriage will create the chance to break out of poverty far better, far better

than any of the government programs that we can create."

My qualm with the statement is the insistence on a "traditional marriage." Loving families, of any formation, can suffice. While it is true that two adults in a home can provide twice the time, attention and income for a family, those adults needn't necessarily be in a traditional marriage. Yes, marriage can have a sustaining and fortifying effect on a union and a family, but following that argument, we should be rushing headlong to extend it to all who desire it. In some cases, even parents living apart can offer a nurturing environment for children if they prioritize parenting when it comes to their time and money. Not all parents have to reside together to provide together.

There are many ways to be a loving family and to provide what children need. All forms of marriage are valid and valuable, as well as other ways of constructing a family.

The bigger issue here is the constant juxtaposition of traditional values with social safety nets, as if they were mutually exclusive or, worse, had a zero-sum relationship. The logic is that people rely on public benefits because they have turned their backs on traditional values.

This is part and parcel of conservative thinking about the rich and poor in this country: that the poor are so because they lack some basic value - ambition, for example - and the rich are so because they have an abundance of it.

A Pew Research Center/USA Today survey in January found that, unlike Democrats and independents, most Republicans believe that people are poor primarily because of a lack of effort, and that people are rich primarily because they work harder than others.

The roles of privilege, structural

inequities and discriminatory policies seem to have little weight, and the herculean efforts of the working poor, who often toil at backbreaking work that the body can't long endure, seem invisible.

That construct, that the poor are in some way deficient, is a particularly poisonous and unsupportable position.

And, by extension, the proposition that people can simply love and marry - traditionally only - their way out of poverty is supremely condescending.

This position, cloaked in an air of benevolence and good will, is in fact lacking in understanding of the lives of poor people and compassion for their plight.

And if the hypocrisy were not glaring enough, poorer people have been shown to be more generous than richer people. As McClatchy reported in 2009: "Indeed, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' latest survey of consumer expenditure found that the poorest fifth of America's households contributed an average of 4.3 percent of their incomes to charitable organizations in 2007. The richest fifth gave at less than half that rate, 2.1 percent."

Yes, those with the least give the most, and yet people like Ryan and Bush find them lacking.

Poverty is a demanding, stressful, depressive and often violent state. No one seeks it; they are born or thrust into it. In poverty, the whole of your life becomes an exercise in coping and correcting, searching for a way up and out, while focusing today on filling the pots and the plates, maintaining a roof and some warmth, and dreading the new challenge tomorrow may bring.

We should extend the conversation about tackling poverty, but that conversation should not be governed by the belief that poverty in resources is synonymous with poverty of values. □

Inmates' Newspaper Covers World Inside San Quentin

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SAN QUENTIN, Calif. - It is not every newspaper editor who can point to a black-and-white surveillance photograph from a 1996 bank robbery and say that he was the robber.

But then again, the San Quentin News - which was recently honored by a chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists for "accomplishing extraordinary journalism under extraordinary circumstances" - is hardly a typical newspaper.

Founded in 1940 and then revived as a serious journalistic enterprise six years ago, the monthly News, which bills itself as "The Pulse of San Quentin," is the state's only inmate-produced newspaper and one of the few in the world. The paper's 15 staff members, all of them male felons, write from the unusual perspective of having served an estimated 297 1/2 years collectively for burglary, murder, home invasion, conspiracy and, in one case, a Ponzi scheme. In a notorious prison best known for its death row, the men are committed to what Juan Haines, the 56-year-old managing editor, who is serving 55 years to life for that 1996 bank robbery, calls "boots on the ground" journalism, accomplished without cellphones or direct Internet access.

"It's about being heard in a place that's literally shut off from the world," he said.

From their newsroom trailer next to the prison yard, where inmates work out amid spectacular views, the reporters and editors delve into issues at "the Q," as San Quentin State Prison is sometimes called, as well as those far beyond its walls. They have covered a hunger strike, crowding in California's women's prisons and a federal court order concerning mental health care for California death row inmates.

But the paper specializes in stories that can be written only by journalists with a "uniquely visceral understanding of the criminal jus-

tice system," said Arnulfo T. Garcia, the paper's editor-in-chief, who is serving 65 years to life for a long list of crimes that includes burglary, robbery and skipping bail to flee to Mexico. Lately, the paper seems to be gathering momentum. Editors, who sometimes work through dinner over ramen noodles, are talking about expanding the current circulation of 11,500. Students from the Center for Nonprofit and Public Leadership at the Univer-

a sleepover and murdered in 1993, said that he was "vehemently opposed" to an inmate-produced publication being accessible to the public.

"These men are behind bars for a reason - so we can be protected from them," Klaas said. "I don't think that criminals serving time should have the opportunity to influence the hearts and minds of law-abiding citizens."

Richard Allen Davis, convicted in 1996 in the murder

er than physical or violent means."

The paper's recent coverage has included an article about an inmate who was denied a compassionate release ("Judge Slams the Door on Cancer Patient, 81") and a profile of transgender inmates that highlighted the lack of availability of bras at men's prisons. One inmate on the staff, Glenn Padgett, 50, said that his work felt redemptive.

"I'm just trying to give

ond." (Stiner, 66, escaped in 1974 from San Quentin, where he was serving a life sentence for conspiracy to commit murder in the shooting deaths of two Black Panthers, and fled the country.

Asked by a visitor how he escaped, he replied, "Real fast.")

Like a small-town paper - San Quentin has a population of 3,855 - The News covers sports (including the San Quentin Giants and the A's), arts and entertain-



Inmates in the main yard at San Quentin State Prison in San Quentin, Calif. The prison's monthly inmate-produced newspaper is the state's only inmate-produced newspaper and one of the few in the world.

(Max Whittaker/The New York Times)

sity of California, Berkeley, have helped them develop a 12-year business plan that would increase the number of paid subscribers to help subsidize the free copies for inmates.

This year, the Northern California chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists gave the San Quentin News one of its James Madison Freedom of Information Awards.

Some people find the possibility of a higher profile alarming. Marc Klaas, president of the KlaasKids Foundation, whose 12-year-old daughter, Polly, was kidnapped at knife point from

of Polly Klaas, is on death row at San Quentin.

Robert L. Ayers Jr., a former San Quentin warden who retired in 2008, said that positive outlets were important for prisoners. He said he decided to revive the publication as a quality journalistic endeavor rather than what he called an "inmate rant rag."

"When they get involved and see they're accomplishing something, that could be the one positive tick mark in the 'good' column for them," he said.

In learning how to write, he added, "they start expressing themselves in ways oth-

back, to deal with the rips and tears I've made in the universe," said Padgett, known as Luke, who, at age 33, stabbed a man to death and set fire to his home to cover up the killing.

Prison officials vet the content. This year, the news operation was suspended for 45 days after a photograph of a Shakespearean play performance was swapped without approval.

This prompted Watani Stiner, a columnist, to write, "We are once again reminded that we are prisoners first and journalists sec-

ment, babies born to the paper's advisers, folksy holiday greetings and man-on-the-street interviews, San Quentin-style.

"We can go right into the yard and get a quote about how inmates are affected by policy decisions," Haines, the managing editor, said.

Its issues are typically 20 pages and are available online. A yearly subscription costs \$40 for members of the public.

The paper is distributed to 17 prisons in addition to San Quentin, where it is considered a must-read by correctional officers. □